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TUESDAY MARCH 17 1992

40p

Tories take three-point poll lead as Smith sets out alternative budget.

Labour to end tax for 740,000

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

LABOUR yesterday set out to defuse Conservative attacks on its tax policies with a shadow budget package which would take 740,000 people out of tax altogether.

The party plans to raise personal allowances by 10 per cent, more than twice the rate of inflation.

As expected, John Smith, the shadow chancellor, confirmed that Labour would scrap the 20p minimum tax band introduced by Norman Lamont, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, last week. It would introduce a new 50p top rate of income tax starting with taxable income of £36,725 a year, and would reduce the £21,060 ceiling on employers' national insurance contributions.

Under harrumphing from the Conservatives, Labour has dropped its plans for a 9 per cent national insurance levy on savings income of more than £3,000 a year, after accusations that it would be hitting early retirees living on redundancy payments. Mr Smith also abandoned previously announced plans to eliminate the deductibility of pensions contributions against a higher rate tax.

While Labour emphasised that the plans would benefit everyone earning less than £22,000 a year — eight out of ten taxpayers — ministers argued that Labour's plans would see interest rates rising and house prices devastated.

Full coverage and analysis of the campaign 6-10

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A Harris survey published in today's *Daily Express* put party support at Conservatives 41 per cent, Labour 38, Liberal Democrats 17 and others 5 per cent. The Conservative lead of three points is the biggest the party has enjoyed in any poll since mid-January. The new poll was taken on Sunday and yesterday.

Independent studies suggested that those earning about £26,000 a year would lose about £5 a week under Labour's plans while the £50,000 a year earner would be £65 a week worse off. The Liberal Democrats dismissed Labour's plans as "timid" while first City reactions were suspicious because of the lack of back-up statistics.

Two surprises in Mr Smith's package were the announcement that Labour would end the 2 per cent national insurance payments for people earning £54 a week, thus giving every employee a £56 bonus, and an extension of tax relief to all forms of child care provided by employers.

Taking the Tory government's borrowing levels but redistributing taxation and spending priorities, Mr Smith announced a £1.1 billion package to promote economic recovery, a minimum increase of £1 billion in spending on the health service and £600 million on education. Labour officials said the budget package would leave a further £2.7 billion available for additional public spending programmes in 1993-4.

Mr Smith confirmed Labour's long-standing promise of an increase in pensions of £5 a week for single pensioners and £8 a week for couples and an increase in child benefit to £9.95 a week for all children.

Mr Smith said the budget changes meant that every employee earning up to £22,000 a year would benefit. "The combined effect of our national insurance reforms and the increase in personal allowance will mean that a single person on average earnings will receive an increase in disposable income of over £100 per year. Taking into account our proposed

increase in child benefit, the average two-earner family with two children will receive an increase in disposable income of £311 per year."

Mr Lamont claimed that Labour was "in retreat" over its tax plans and said that taxation of those on whom the country depended to get it out of recession would soar. "For those 3.5 million people earning over £22,000 a year there is a knock-out punch. They will pay an extra 9 per cent on every penny they earn over that amount."

Labour had been planning to introduce a 9 per cent employees' national insurance contribution on savings income over £3,000 a year so that earned and unearned income were treated on a similar basis. The Tories had pointed out that this would affect many people earning less than £20,000 a year.

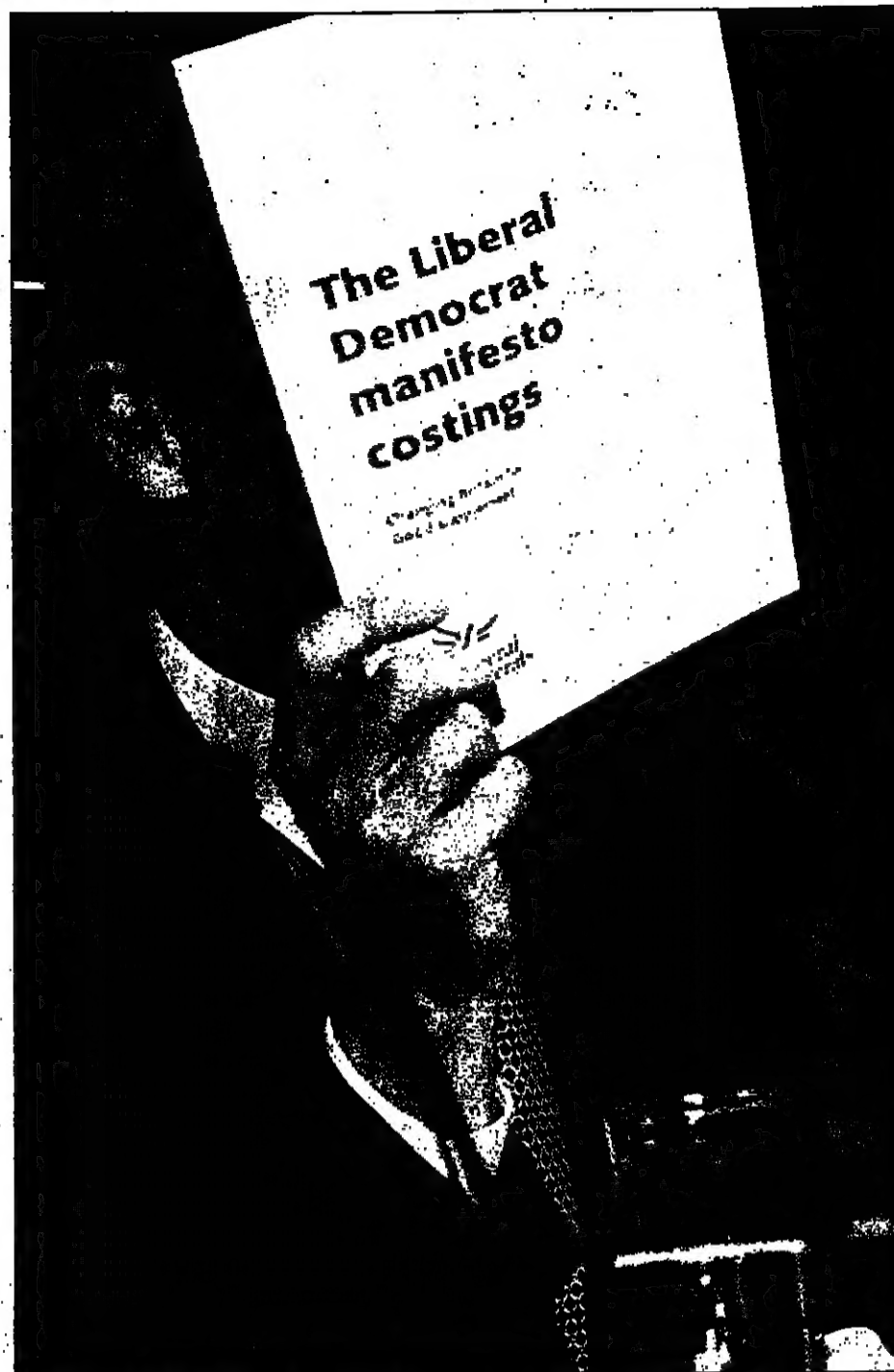
Yesterday Mr Smith said: "Having regard to the large number of people who, as a result of the substantial increase in redundancies, are dependent on unearned income from redundancy settlements and to the administrative complexity of exempting them, we have decided to withdraw this proposal." He confirmed later that that was a promise which held good for an entire parliament.

Labour was risking keeping taxation at the top of the political agenda with Mr Smith's package, but believed the risk was worth it, expecting that the shadow chancellor's personal credibility would help them to dismiss Tory charges that Labour spending plans would mean an increase of £1,000 a year for the average taxpayer. Mr Smith said: "I do believe these policies will effectively contain Conservative misrepresentations."

Mr Smith did not produce projections of vital economic indicators, such as inflation, and growth as well as the

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Labour's Budget, pages 6-7
 Leading article, page 15



Hidden agenda: Paddy Ashdown brandishing his party's programme yesterday

Ashdown promises vision and realism in manifesto

By Sheila Gunn, Political Correspondent

PADDY Ashdown pinned his hopes yesterday on wooing voters with a "visionary, but realistic" manifesto putting constitutional change at the heart of a long-term programme for stable government.

The 15,000-word manifesto to *Changing Britain for Good* sets out the Liberal Democrats' terms for dealing with a minority government after the general election. It places the introduction of a proportional representation

voting system and home rule for Scotland at the top of the agenda for any future negotiations, together with a package of environmental, economic and education policies.

As promised by Mr Ashdown, the document commits the party to higher borrowing and higher taxation to "kickstart" Britain out of the recession and clean up the environment. Public borrowing would be increased to £30 billion, the basic rate of in-

come tax raised by 1p to 26p in the pound, the Conservatives' new, lower 20p tax band would be reversed and petrol prices would rise by 10p a gallon, in order to fund a long-term public investment programme and tackle pollution.

At the London launch of the manifesto, Mr Ashdown said the Liberal Democrats offered a unique combination in a general election which could mark a watershed for Britain. Only his party, he insisted, would tell the truth to the British voters, while the Tories will try to bribe and Labour will try to fool the electorate.

"Labour don't understand private enterprise and the Conservatives don't understand public investment. Only the Liberal Democrats go into this election with a clear plan to end this recession, to kickstart Britain out of slump and to boost employment."

He made clear yesterday that the Liberal Democrats' ambitious programme of reform across a great swathe of the nation's life hinges on a revolution in the way Britain is governed.

Manifesto, page 10
 Leading article, page 15



Graf: the "let" rule is not an issue among players

Yeltsin appoints himself to head army

From Mary Dejevsky in Moscow

PRESIDENT Yeltsin moved yesterday to set up a separate Russian army and named himself acting head of a newly formed Russian Federation defence ministry.

Supporters of his government, which is bracing itself for mass anti-Yeltsin protests in Moscow today, said his action was timed partly to warn opponents that his administration had the means to defend itself.

The new defence ministry is to form a Russian army that will take its place among the joint forces of the Common-

wealth of Independent States. After Ukraine, Azerbaijan and Moldova, the Russian Federation becomes the fourth former Soviet republic to set up its own army.

Russian leaders had insisted that it would not do so if this could be avoided. But pressure proved too great from the federation's parliament and rank-and-file servicemen worried about the speed with which Ukraine was forming its own armed forces.

The decree signed by Mr Yeltsin yesterday after his re-

turn from a two-week holiday stipulates that the defence minister should be a civilian and defines the ministry's responsibilities as drafting the military budget and ensuring financial, technical and material support for the Russian armed forces. The separation of the political direction of the armed forces from operational command is assumed.

The army was the only institution of the Soviet state not to be divided among the republics when President Gorbachev resigned. As the red flag was lowered over the

Kremlin last December 25, Mr Gorbachev's post of commander-in-chief was transferred to Marshal Yevgeni Shaposhnikov, the then Soviet defence minister, who was appointed commander of the combined commonwealth armed forces.

Sergei Shakhrai, a deputy prime minister, said yesterday that Mr Yeltsin's decree did not mean that Russia had already formed its own armed forces "but, in practice, they already exist".

Civil war warning, page 12

Tennis world split on future of the 'let'

By Andrew Longmore, Tennis Correspondent

IMAGINE the scene. Match point for Michael Stich in the final of the 1993 Wimbledon championships. Stich serves. The ball clips the top of the net and drops gently into court, leaving Boris Becker stranded on the baseline. No "let" call. Ace, game, set and match to Stich. If a recommendation that the "let" rule be abolished is adopted later this summer, that will be the case from the beginning of next year.

The proposal, made by the rules committee of the International Tennis Federation at its meeting last week, received a mixed reaction from the players at the Lipton International in Key Biscayne, Florida, yesterday. On the one hand, there was the incredulous stare of Stefan Edberg; on the other, the gentle mirth of Steffi Graf. Edberg, hardly the most militant of men, even implied that

the players might refuse to play to the new rules, should the ITF annual meeting approve it in the autumn.

Edberg, twice Wimbledon champion, said: "It's crazy. If a ball hits the net and drops over, it's an ace? It would be a matter of luck. It's totally unnecessary. How can they make decisions like that without consulting the players?"

Graf, the Wimbledon champion, asked: "Who decided that? It sounds very silly. Who thinks about these things? The 'let' doesn't disturb anybody. There are far more important issues in the game than that."

The hostile response should come as no surprise to the ITF. In surveys by the Association of Tennis Players, who run the tour but not the four grand slams, the players have consistently rejected a change in the rule — formulated in 1880 by the All England Club — even though they regard the "let" as the call most often missed. However, there are those

Ivan Lendl for one, who regard the "let" rule as illogical because it does not apply to any other shot. They see it as an unnecessary interruption to the flow of the match. "I would be for the change because the 'let' call is the most controversial and because it would speed up the game," Lendl said. "But they would have to standardise the nets. At Wimbledon the ball just falls over the net so it is an advantage to the server. At the US Open, the ball stands up and asks to be hit."

The ITF emphasised yesterday that the proposal would have to be accepted by the committee of management and then passed by a two-thirds majority at the annual meeting in September before becoming a rule of the game.

Nobody has yet been able to bring themselves to consult the manufacturer who has spent years developing an electronic net cord device, which could be obsolete by the end of the year.

Germany insists on having EC bank

London has the financial expertise but politically Frankfurt needs the central bank, Ian Murray reports

Germany has stepped up pressure on the European Community to choose Frankfurt, not London, as seat of the future European central bank, with the implied threat that it will back out of plans for a single European currency if this is not done. Bonn sees the choice of Frankfurt as its price for surrendering the mark.

Theo Waigel, the finance minister, told a weekend conference of his Christian Social Union that the choice of Frankfurt was an "indispensable condition for German acceptance of currency union". Only if the bank was in Germany, he said, would there be the wide support and acceptance of the concept needed to make it work.

A decision is due to be taken this year. London, with its financial expertise, has high hopes of being chosen. German commentators emphasise ruefully that, despite Frankfurt's position in the heart of Europe, the Bank of England showed great skill in securing the biggest part of the ecu market in a short time, though sterling was not then inside the European exchange-rate mechanism.

Bonn and German bankers are doing their utmost to swing the choice to Frankfurt, arguing that the decision must take political considerations into account.

Helmut Schlesinger, Bundesbank president, complained last month that Germany, with 80 million people, was the biggest EC country and yet still had no large EC institution in it. The mark was the world's most important reserve currency after the dollar, he said, and "Germany offers, so to speak, a good 'mother earth' for an anti-inflation money policy in Europe".

Hilmar Kopper, head of Deutsche Bank, largest in the country, went even further in an interview with *Die Zeit*. The choice of Frankfurt, he said, was "a condition *sine qua non*" for economic union, because of the anchor function of the mark and its stability.

Last December Helmut
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TODAY IN THE TIMES

STAGING A COMEBACK



From golden girl to outcast, Kate Nelligan's career is once more back on track with an Oscar nomination
Life & Times
 page 3

UNHAPPY FAMILIES



Where there's a will... Libby Purves considers the pitfalls of family inheritance
Life & Times
 page 1

LAWYERS IN WAITING



Frances Gibb profiles the men tipped to succeed Lord Mackay
Law Times
Life & Times
 page 7

Man denies TV murder

A council planning officer was shot dead and a policeman and reporter wounded when a dispute over a bungalow built without planning permission ended in tragedy, Newcastle Crown Court was told.

Albert Dryden, a former steelworker, denies five charges including murder and attempted murder. The court was shown a film of the incident taken by a BBC news crew. Page 3

Cell death

A remand prisoner found hanged in a cell at a young offenders' centre had been released six days earlier after serving a year for assault. Page 2

Abuse claims

Hundreds of children in care have been sexually abused, according to the NSPCC. Page 4

Walesa anger

Lech Walesa, the Polish president, has accused the West of misreading East European economic needs and prescribing unrealistic programmes. Page 12

Hateley back

Mark Hateley's football career was resurrected when, at 31, he was recalled to the England squad in Prague. Page 30

Banks banned

Gordon Banks, the former England goalkeeper, was banned from receiving FA Cup final tickets for seven years. An FA investigation into the resale of tickets named 28 offenders, and fined Tottenham Hotspur £2,500. Page 30

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Cell hanging prompts fear of copycat suicides

A REMAND prisoner found hanging in his cell at a young offenders' centre had been released from the institution six days earlier after serving a year's sentence for assault.

John Kirkland, aged 20, had returned to the centre after being remanded in custody by Bow Street magistrates' court, accused of assault. He was found dead in his cell at Feltham young offenders' centre a day after arriving there on Saturday.

Mr Kirkland, who had hanged himself with bedclothes, is the fourth inmate at the centre to have died by hanging in seven months. Staff at the centre fear that his death could trigger copycat death attempts. Joe Whitty, the governor, said

that Mr Kirkland had been seen by a prison officer 40 minutes before he was found hanging at supper time on Sunday.

"The staff were delivering the supper when they found him hanging," Mr Whitty said. "He was hanging by his bedclothes from an upturned bed." Mr Whitty said that Mr Kirkland would have been confined to his cell for most of Sunday and that, although the centre would like inmates to be out of the cells more often, this would require extra staff.

Mr Kirkland came from Port St Mary, Isle of Man, where his mother, Renee Kirkland, said yesterday that she had not seen her son for two years, nor heard from him. Mr Whitty said

Richard Ford and Stewart Tendler report on the urgent need to tackle the causes of despair at a young offenders' centre that has seen four deaths in seven months and a series of attempted suicides

that Mr Kirkland had been a very difficult young man who had settled down in prison the first time, had been released, but could not cope with life outside.

Joan Phelan, chairman of the board of visitors for the centre, said that she understood that Mr Kirkland had been severely depressed to be back in the centre so soon after his release.

Last week, the board said that after two hangings and many suicide attempts in 1991, a new initiative was

needed to identify those at risk of taking their lives. It said that the complement of 382 prison officers for about 740 inmates did not take account of the additional work involved in looking after juveniles and young offenders.

The board's annual report also criticised the poor condition and construction of the building that meant that maintenance costs were high for an establishment built only six years ago. Mr Kirkland's death came only hours

before staff introduced measures designed to remove opportunities for suicide attempts. Yesterday, staff bolted down beds. Each week, a suicide prevention management group and a case conference discuss particular cases.

Last week, an inquest jury criticised standards at the centre when returning a verdict of suicide on Lee Waite. After hearing how he had been bullied and sexually abused by a "welcoming committee" at the centre, the jury said that few of the staff had a "working knowledge" of current best practice for suicide prevention.

The chances that Feltham inmates will get support from their families is lessened by the fact that the centre serves

southern England and south Wales, making parental visits difficult. In some cases, offenders are from broken homes and have little hope of receiving support.

Mr Whitty has acknowledged that much more could be done and urged an increase in staff. He argues that prison is no place for some of his offenders, who are little more than children, unless they are better treated, and believes that the system often breeds prison fodder.

Recently, Mr Whitty reported that 59 inmates aged up to 21 had injured themselves deliberately in two months. After the suicide of a 17-year-old last autumn, Mr Whitty emphasised in his report to the Home Office the "bullying and outright thug-

gery which figures in attempted suicides".

Bullies take cigarettes, food, valuables and other items from weaker prisoners in a system known as "taxing" and use intimidation to get their way. Mr Whitty said: "It worries and shocks me. Other governors have the same concern."

Within institutions such as Feltham, there is a trade in commodities, aggravated by the fact that younger prisoners are officially denied cigarettes, but nonetheless get them and smoke secretly in their cells. The price for a packet of cigarettes is exorbitantly paid in food, toiletries and soft drinks. Inmates develop a gang mentality and sometimes pick on the weakest.

Five men accused of child sex abuse

Five men charged with indecency and assault on minors at Bryn Esyn children's home in Wrexham, Clwyd, were granted bail in four separate appearances at the town's magistrates' court yesterday. The alleged offences date from the early 1980s. The cases were adjourned until April 27.

Peter Howarth, aged 61, of Wrexham, retired former deputy head of the home, was charged with three serious sexual offences. Paul Wilson, aged 41, of Chirk, Clwyd, medically retired former care officer at the home, faced two charges of assault causing actual bodily harm and one of indecent assault.

The other three defendants appeared in court separately. Stephen Norris, aged 55, of Mold, Clwyd, a former senior social worker, is accused of serious sexual offences with four boys under the age of 16 over a seven-year period.

David Birch, aged 34, of Blaenau Ffestiniog, Gwynedd, a former care officer who is now deputy officer in charge of a children's establishment in Sefton, Merseyside, was charged with two assaults causing actual bodily harm and one serious sexual offence.

David Wright, aged 45, a materials technician of Norwich, Norfolk, was charged with indecently assaulting a boy.

Reporting restrictions were not lifted.

Police tackle car park fear

A national police campaign to improve security in public car parks was announced yesterday by the Association of Chief Police Officers.

Features such as lighting, staffing and surveillance will be highlighted and good car parks will be awarded plaques. Half a million recorded car crimes — 20 per cent of the total — take place in car parks each year. Charles Pollard, chief constable of Thames Valley, said that car parks also created an exaggerated sense of fear even though the risk of attack was small.

Costly coin

A gold sovereign worth £1 when minted in 1920 sold for a world record of £114,000 at Spink in London yesterday because it was one of a small group minted in Sydney, Australia. It was bought by a British-based collector, bidding against an Australian. At the same sale a 1922 Sydney coin fetched £11,000, and one minted there a year later went for £5,800.

Car kills boy

Patrick Burgess, aged seven, was killed by an out-of-control car yesterday while walking with his father and sister in Battle, East Sussex. Schools in the town had been closed to allow teacher training.

Bodies found

The bodies of a father and son were recovered from the sea off Skye yesterday after their fishing boat, the Mallaig-registered Spray, had been reported taking in water.

CORRECTION

In our article, "Maxwell brothers' silence was contempt, say MPs" (March 13), we incorrectly stated that Michael Stoney was "treasurer of the Mirror Group pension fund". He is not and never has been treasurer, or a trustee, of the fund. Our apologies to Mr Stoney.

Gunman fired shot into plane head. court

Chorister loses jealousy claim

Cash hurdle halts would-be lawyers

BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

A LACK of funds is causing a big drop-out of aspiring lawyers from the one-year course that they must take to become solicitors, according to a survey by The College of Law, the largest training institution for solicitors in England and Wales.

The findings show that despite the view that the legal profession is now open to all, irrespective of background or wealth, finance can still be an insurmountable barrier.

Those hardest hit are students who fail to secure articles with a big law firm that will then fund them through training, estimated to cost at least £6,000 to £7,000 year including fees and subsistence.

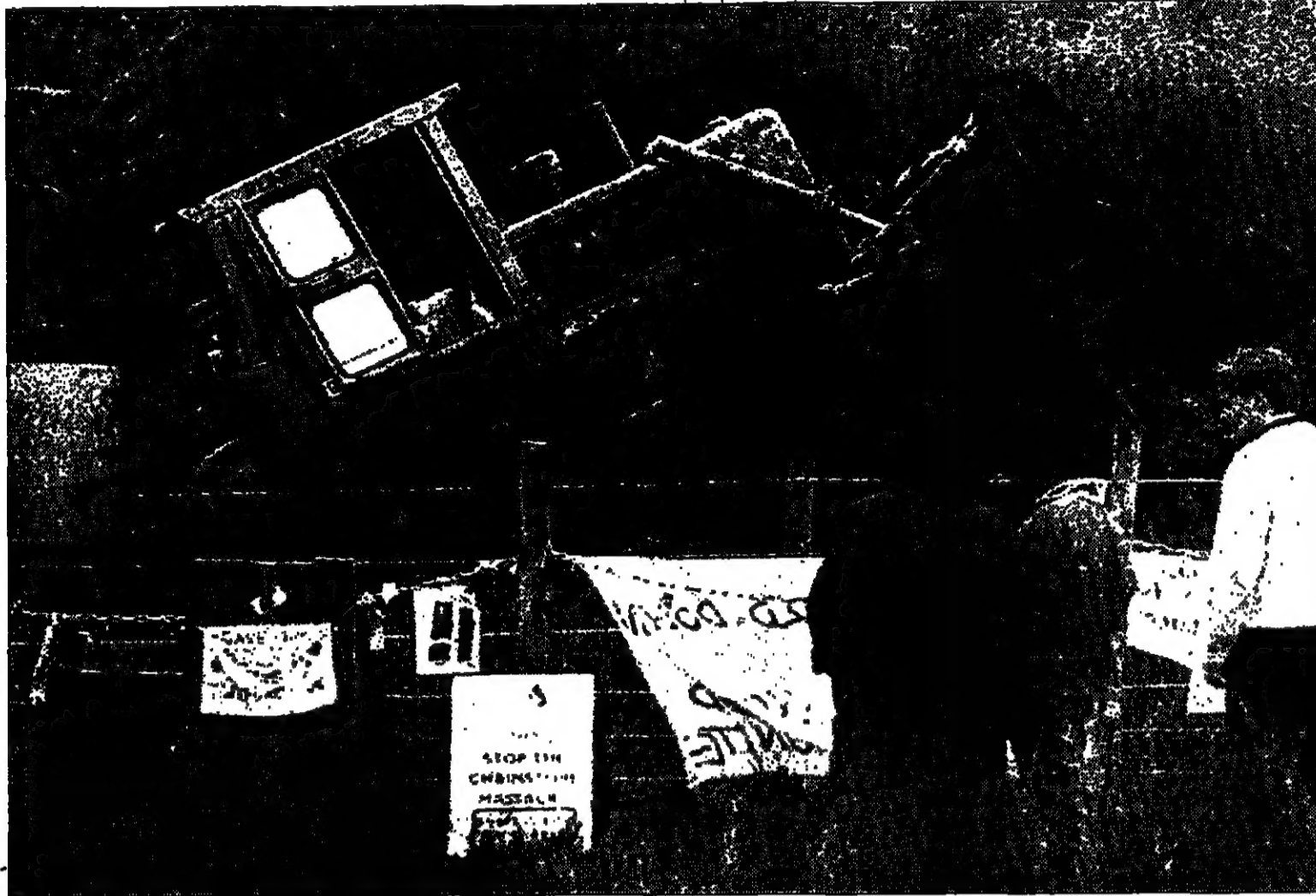
The survey, which the college has sent to the Lord Chancellor's department and to the Law Society's trainee solicitor group, found that more than half the students who failed to take up places

on final courses at the college's branches in London, Guildford, Chester and York, did so for financial reasons.

Some 250 (of a total 4,000) students failed to take up places, and, of respondents to the survey, 58 per cent of these said that it was for financial reasons. They said that they could not afford the annual fee, now £3,025 in London and £2,800 outside, and could not obtain grants, sponsorship or articles.

Particularly hard hit were students from ethnic minorities, women returners, and mature students, despite degrees that were upper seconds or first class.

Local authority grants are not given automatically for the one-year course, and have become increasingly difficult to obtain. The survey findings will increase pressure for grants to be made mandatory for the final course.



End of the earth: environmental protesters watch a bulldozer beginning work yesterday on the final section of the M3 through Twyford Down in Hampshire. Campaigners

against the route were taken by surprise when construction started at 9am to clear trees and top soil from lichen watermeadows in preparation for the chalk cutting, which

is expected to begin in the autumn (Michael Dwyer writes). Response to the transport department's decision to press ahead with the scheme. John Ford, for the Twyford

Down Association, said: "Clearly the department wants to do as much damage as possible in the time before the election." Bypass opposed, L&T section, page 5

Tribunal cuts cost of listings

BY MELINDA WITTSTOCK, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

A YEAR-LONG campaign by British newspapers and magazines to reduce the price they must pay for television listings came to a successful conclusion yesterday when the Copyright Tribunal set charges far below those demanded by broadcasters.

The tribunal was concerned by the number of weekly newspapers which had stopped providing programme details since the BBC and Independent Television Publishers set the new charges. Programme details had been provided free of charge until last March when the duopoly held by TV Times and Radio Times was ended to allow others to print seven-day television listings.

The new rules mean that a national daily newspaper publishing six days of listings each week with a circulation of one million would now pay a total £18,720 for the period, compared with the £50,000 which ITP alone had wanted. The BBC would have also charged £104,000.

The Newspaper Society, which represents 1,000 regional newspapers, said the annual bill for listings information will be reduced from £14.5 million a year to less than £1.5 million.

Polytechnic takes its new name from pools tycoon

BY MATTHEW D'ANCONA, EDUCATION REPORTER

A BARON from the thirteenth century and a football pools tycoon gave their names to two new universities yesterday when the first 14 polytechnics seeking university status had their new names approved provisionally by the privy council.

The decision to end the distinction between universities and polytechnics has led to a search for imaginative names that will not be confused with existing institutions. Leicester Polytechnic becomes De Montfort University, after Simon de Montfort (c.1208-1265), earl of Leicester and baronial rebel against Henry III, while Liverpool Polytechnic takes its new name from Sir John Moores, founder of the Littlewoods organisation. De Montfort may seem an

obscure name for Leicester, but Michael Brown, deputy director of the polytechnic, said: "Here is a Leicester person who made a contribution to national history and to the democratic process."

Liverpool Polytechnic said it considered a number of names before settling for Sir John Moores. "He is a major benefactor in arts and education on Merseyside, and is known for his belief in equality of opportunity. His philosophy matched ours and we thought it would be nice to honour him in this way," a spokeswoman said. Newcastle Polytechnic will be known as the University of Northumbria at Newcastle, in spite of a local poll indicating support for more imaginative titles such as

Hadrian's University, after the nearby wall, and Maggie University, after the town's football team.

Michael Goldstein, director of Coventry Polytechnic, which becomes Coventry University, said the name changes would help polytechnics to market themselves at home and overseas.

Several of the 20 polytechnics not included in yesterday's list still face a battle to steer through their preferred titles after the new Further and Higher Education Act comes into force in May. Nottingham polytechnic is likely to apply for the title Nottingham City University or City of Nottingham University, neither of which would satisfy government guidelines. Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary, has said that adding "new" or "city" to a title would not be enough to avoid confusion.

The Committee of Directors of Polytechnics said yesterday that some of the restrictions on the choice of names were unreasonable. "It is silly to suggest that it is confusing to have names which are similar but not the same. It's like saying that Manchester United and Manchester City football teams could be confused," a spokesman said.

Police foil Belfast bombing

BY EDWARD GORMAN, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

SECURITY forces in Belfast yesterday foiled what appeared to have been an attempt by the IRA to detonate a large bomb in the city centre.

Following a number of tips about suspicious activity in flats at Twinbrook in the Republican west of Belfast, police discovered a 1,600lb bomb inside one of the flats. Superintendent Bertie Carson said that the bomb, consisting of home-made explosive packed into three bins, was primed and could have detonated at any time, reducing the flats to rubble.

No arrests were made at the flats and officers countered criticism that they should have laid an ambush by saying that their priority was to defuse the device and evacuate up to 100 residents from the building.

In Donegal police are following up searches around Letterkenny after weapons including a machine-gun, explosive and ammunition were found at the weekend.

MANAGING WASTE: THE DUTY OF CARE THIS CONCERNS ALL BUSINESSES

From 1st April 1992 all businesses will be subject to the new duty of care on waste under section 34 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990. In many cases this will require re-appraisal of current practices. The first step is to understand and assimilate the requirements of section 34 and the regulations and Code of Practice made under it.

The Environmental Law Department of Simmons & Simmons which is generally regarded as one of the foremost in the area of waste management law has produced a helpful and practical guide to the new law.

The Guide includes:

- a foreword by Sir Hugh Rosell MP
- sections on the law and its application to business, the waste industry and the construction industry
- full reference to the Code of Practice
- "Issues of Liability" and "Successful Waste Contracting"
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PARIS BRUSSELS LISBON LONDON HONG KONG NEW YORK

Temple of Victorian grandeur reopens

BY JOHN YOUNG

ONE of London's grandest Victorian hotels, the Great Central, opposite Marylebone station, will reopen this autumn after more than 50 years.

The building is in the final stages of restoration, which began three years ago, and is to be renamed the London Whishire, by the new management company, Regent International Hotels, of Hong Kong, which also runs the Regent Beverly Wilshire in Los Angeles.

The Whishire, which has more than 300 bedrooms, is the third luxury class hotel to open in London within two years, the others being the Langham, in Portland Place,

and the Lanesborough, the former St George's Hospital at Hyde Park Corner. Architecturally it is perhaps the most splendid of the three, and the vast glass-roofed atrium, extending the whole height of the building, seems likely to become one of the sights of the capital. Until 1988 the building was used as British Rail's headquarters, and so has been generally well maintained. Richard Holder, of the Victorian Society, says the interior has suffered less than the Langham from alterations, and so should more closely resemble its original appearance. The Great Central was the

brainchild of Sir Edward Watkins, who dreamed of a railway network linked with Europe via a Channel tunnel. But his Great Central Railway Company ran into financial difficulties. However, the hotel scheme was rescued by Sir John Blundell Maple, chairman of Maples furniture store. He commissioned the architect Robert William Edis, who espoused the grand style with marbled columns and moulded plaster ceilings. Building began in 1895 and the hotel was opened on June 14, 1899. It was described as "a Temple of Luxury, being of a most unique and convenient character."

During the first world war it was used as a convalescent home for officers but reopened afterwards with a number of changes to accommodate the "jazz age". In the second world war the services again took over the hotel, but afterwards it seemed in danger of demolition. Fortunately wiser counsels prevailed, influenced perhaps by the late Sir John Betjeman, who called it "one of the best examples of late Victorian architecture left in London". English Heritage and the Victorian Society have advised on the restoration which is being carried out by Bovis for the building's owners, Hazama Corporation.

DAKS Simpson have doubled the life of their Suits



It is a well known fact that suit trousers wear out long before the jacket, cutting short the life of the suit. But from only £269, DAKS Simpson are offering classic mid and dark grey wool business suits with an even longer life than usual... because now they come with two pairs of trousers. But hurry, this offer is only open until Saturday, 28th March 1992.

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It would be hard to imagine a more deliberate murder, prosecution tells jurors

Gunman fired final shot into planner's head, court told

BY PETER DAVENPORT

ALBERT Dryden, the man millions of television viewers saw shoot a planning officer ordering the demolition of his home, fired another shot into the man's chest and moments later fired a third into his head, a jury was told yesterday.

Mr Dryden, aged 51, of Buttsfield, near Consett, County Durham, denies murdering Harry Collinson and attempting to murder Tony Belmont, aged 39, a BBC television reporter, and PC Stephen Campbell, aged 23. He also denies two alternative charges of wounding the two men with intent to cause bodily harm.

The jury at Newcastle upon Tyne crown court watched film of Mr Collinson, aged 46, a divorced father of two, first planning tactics with other council officials and

then confronting Mr Dryden at the gate to his smallholding, where he had built a bungalow without planning permission.

John Milford, QC, for the prosecution, said that on June 20 last year a small crowd, including Mr Dryden, a group of his friends and supporters, newsmen, and three uniformed police officers, gathered near the bungalow.

During a brief conversation Mr Dryden asked Mr Collinson for a six-week reprieve while his appeal was being considered, but was told that the demolition must go ahead.

Mr Milford said that the planning officer told Mr Dryden that the bulldozer would be coming through his fence. Mr Dryden's last words to Mr Collinson, the court was

told, were: "You do so at your own risk. It is entirely up to you. You are making a sad decision."

What followed demonstrated that Dryden had decided to take the most desperate measures to protect his property," Mr Milford said. "It was no decision taken in the heat of the moment. A more deliberate murder, he said, "it would be hard to imagine."

Mr Dryden, he said, who had earlier told a local reporter he would not hesitate to use a firearm to protect his property, walked to his nearby car and strapped on a holster and revolver. He then

Mr Collinson was standing beside one of Mr Dryden's friends, John Graham, who had been remonstrating with him. Mr Milford said: "Dryden emerged over the rampart of earth that screened his bungalow. He drew the gun and pointed it at Mr Collinson. Mr Collinson seems not to have taken the threat seriously. He said to the cameraman filming beside him, 'Can you get a shot of this gun?'"

"Dryden said nothing. He looked to his left and then back to Mr Collinson, raised the gun, took deliberate aim and pulled the trigger. Mr Collinson fell mortally wounded into the ditch behind him. He then cocked the gun again and walked to the fence and fired another shot."

That hit the BBC reporter in the arm but had been intended for Mr Dunston, the solicitor, Mr Dryden, said Mr Milford, then went back to where Mr Collinson was lying and fired a second shot into his chest. He then fired three shots at the group of people running away along the lane. One hit PC Campbell in the buttocks.

Mr Dryden returned to the demolition vehicles, fired four shots through their windscreen and another into a Ford Fiesta car. "He had one bullet left," Mr Milford said. "He went back and shot Harry Collinson through the head."

Mr Dryden was overpowered by a police sergeant. The trial continues today.



Fatal moment: Albert Dryden fires the shot later seen by millions of television viewers

Helicopter black box recovered from sea

By KERRY GILL

THE black box flight recorder from the Super Puma helicopter that crashed in the North Sea late on Saturday with the loss of 11 lives was recovered yesterday and flown to the Civil Aviation Authority's air accident investigation bureau for analysis.

Investigators should be able to say within days whether mechanical failure, as expected, caused the accident. The helicopter plunged into 30ft waves while ferrying workers 220 yards in stormy weather from the Cormoran Alpha oil platform northeast of Shetland to their accommodation module.

Four of the missing bodies have now been recovered and flown to Aberdeen but one person was still unaccounted for last night.

Press Offshore confirmed that six of its employees had died: Dennis Chisholm, of Forres, Grampian, Robert Carmichael, of Stepps, near Glasgow, Peter Ross, of Motherwell, Strathclyde, Thomas Roe, Adam Young and Andrew Swales. The names of the other five victims have yet to be released.

The remains of the Super Puma were lifted from the seabed yesterday and given an initial examination. They were lying in 400ft of water just under half a mile from Cormoran Alpha and are expected to be brought ashore later today. The fuselage is intact and will be taken to the R.A.F. establishment at Farnborough, Hampshire.

Chris Fay, managing director of Shell UK, said yesterday that there were no signs of crash injuries on the six survivors, or on any of the ten bodies so far recovered, indicating that the pilot had made a controlled ditch. He also confirmed that 37 men from the platform had gone ashore on compassionate leave.

Only one of the six survivors is still in hospital. John Barr, from Hull, who came close to drowning in the accident, is said to be out of danger.

Chorister loses jealousy claim

A SENIOR professional chorister at Westminster Abbey, who sang at two royal weddings and the Queen's silver jubilee, lost his claim yesterday that he was dismissed because of jealousy over his musical qualifications.

John Buttrey was refused an extension to his contract when he reached his 60th birthday, after 27 years with the choir, because his voice was no longer up to standard, an industrial tribunal at Chelsea, southwest London, was told. Dr Buttrey had maintained that he was not allowed to stay on because Martin Neary, the organist, was jealous of his "superior academic qualifications".

However, a claim of unfair dismissal by Dr Buttrey, aged 61, a lay vicar, of Wandsworth, southwest London, against the Dean and Chapter of Westminster Abbey was ruled to be outside the panel's jurisdiction. Enid Prevezer, the tribunal chairman, said that it could not deal with the case since it was clear that the retirement age for a lay vicar at the abbey, under the 1979 contract that Dr Buttrey had signed, was 60. The dispute could be taken to the Queen because the abbey is under

her control rather than that of the Church of England.

Dr Buttrey, a tenor in the choir since 1964, who had made 30 records, claimed that Mr Neary was motivated by jealousy in refusing to grant a yearly extension to his contract, which he claimed had been verbally agreed when he signed it. Both men attended Cambridge University at the same time, but Mr Neary had failed his music degree while Dr Buttrey had gone on to take a doctorate, the hearing was told.

Rear-Admiral Kenneth Snow, receiver-general of the abbey, told the tribunal that a report in 1986 by Mr Neary said that Dr Buttrey's voice did not meet the standard required. It stated: "He has to be reminded about not singing flat. He has got used, over the years, to singing at a different pitch, but he has had an Indian summer by responding positively to criticism and he is now trying to sing in tune and has done some sober work." Admiral Snow said that he was told in 1990 that Dr Buttrey's contract would not be renewed.

Miss Prevezer asked that Dr Buttrey be shown "sympathy".

Father jailed for fire deaths of family

A FATHER who set fire to his house and then left his children to burn to death was jailed for 12 years yesterday after admitting arson and the manslaughter of his two daughters.

Before starting the fire, Christopher Snarski, aged 29, had let out the family dog. He denied murdering Sarah, aged two, and Emily, aged 16 months, and attempting to murder his wife, Alexandra, aged 26. The charges were ordered to be left on the file.

Judge John Murchie said that "an intention to murder cannot be proved but he intentionally poured a gallon of petrol and lit it, knowing his wife and children were upstairs".

Snarski, of Bracknell, Berkshire, set fire to the family home in January 1991 with the intention of making an insurance claim to pay off debts. If his wife had died a life insurance policy would have paid off the couple's £93,000 mortgage.

Mr Snarski was woken by smoke but it was so thick that

she was unable to rescue the children. She eventually jumped into the garden.

The court was told that Snarski, a telephone engineer, was probably unaware of the consequences of his actions. Nicholas Jarman, QC, for the prosecution, said although Snarski gave the impression that he was more concerned about the dog than his family, it was normal for him to let the dog out in the morning.

Snarski had been taking body building drugs at the time which could have affected his judgment. Nevertheless he had ignored his wife's

screams. "She ran to the window and saw the defendant at the front of the house. She opened the window and yelled at him."

Snarski drove to work at Chessington, Surrey, stopping to change his scorched clothes in a public lavatory. He then went to a hospital in west London, where he claimed he had been injured by an exploding blow-lamp, before going shopping for new shoes and socks.

After his arrest Snarski broke down and told police: "Things were just such a mess. We never had any money, we were always in debt. I

tried to claim on the insurance. I didn't realise it would go up so quickly, I just managed to get out the door."

Roy Amiot, QC, for Snarski, said he started taking drugs after being off work for several months in 1990 with a shoulder injury and the family debts had risen to £10,000. "To compensate for that he placed his body under incredible strains by constantly attending a gym and abusing himself by taking anabolic steroids. That was lunacy. Such drugs can have drastic effects on an individual. He was in a chaotic mental state."

Newsman awarded £240,000

By RICHARD DUCE

A RUSSIAN émigré and a former associate of Alexander Solzhenitsyn who saw a £65,000 libel award overturned by the Appeal Court was yesterday awarded £240,000 at the end of a second trial into the allegations made against him.

Vladimir Telnikoff, a former BBC journalist and human rights campaigner who now works for Radio Liberty, first won damages against another journalist, Vladimir Matusevitch, in 1988. He had sued Mr Matusevitch, of Wood Green, north London, over a letter he had published in *The Daily Telegraph* in February 1984 which branded him a racist.

Mr Telnikoff, aged 55 of Highgate, north London, was awarded £65,000 but a new trial was ordered after the finding was overturned on appeal in 1989. Following yesterday's verdict Mr Matusevitch, aged 54, also faces estimated costs of £150,000.

Mr Telnikoff spent three years as a reporter in the Russian language section of the BBC External Services. He claimed he was gravely injured by the allegations of Mr Matusevitch, a special correspondent with Radio Liberty, and that his life was devastated by the allegations of racism. Other human rights campaigners had shunned him.

Mr Telnikoff said that he had been jailed twice in Russia for his beliefs.

He claimed the letter to the newspaper suggested that he advocated the introduction of blood testing as part of the recruitment process to the BBC Russian service to maintain racial purity and that he was an anti-semitic who had made statements inciting racial hatred.

Mr Matusevitch had denied libel and claimed fair comment.

Writing on the walls



Dirk Bogarde, the actor, who will be 71 on March 28, signs copies of his novel, *Jericho*, at Hatchards, Piccadilly, yesterday.

Death of dolphins linked to warming

By MICHAEL MCCARTHY ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

THE government was urged yesterday to investigate the deaths of dolphins off the Cornish coast, which Greenpeace claims could be caused indirectly by the effects of global warming.

The pressure group believes that the dolphins have become caught up in nets after moving into fishing grounds where they are not normally seen as a result of climate change.

So far this year 64 dolphins have been found dead around West Country coasts, compared to only 19 for the whole of last year. Post-mortem examinations have shown that they were mostly healthy animals not suffering from disease or pollution, giving rise to suspicions that they had become entangled in monofilament fishing nets. "The

number of deaths is quite alarming and quite unprecedented in this area," Mary Munson, Greenpeace fisheries officer, said.

"But although it looks more and more as if it is related to fisheries, it doesn't mean it's a new fishing technique. It could be that there are more animals, that they are moving. If so, what is causing them to move is probably some large global trend, which could be global warming, and the government should investigate it."

Elizabeth Stevenson, secretary of the Cornish Fish Producers' Organisation, confirmed yesterday that small cetaceans — dolphins and porpoises — were present off the Cornish coast in greater numbers than had been seen before.

Scientists test hairy potato

By NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

A HAIRY potato from Peru could soon be nudging King Edwards, Wilja and Maris Pipers off the nation's dinner plates.

Scientists at the International Potato Centre in Lima, following in the footsteps of British researchers, have crossed a wild and inedible tuber, which has short and long hairs on its leaves, with a traditional eating potato.

Tests indicate that the result is both tasty and extremely effective at repelling damaging and disease carrying insects. Ali Gholmizade, a geneticist at the Centro Internacional de la Papa, said yesterday that the potato was also cheaper to produce because farmers would need less pesticides.

Dr Gholmizade said their research was being hailed across the world as a tremendous breakthrough. More

than 15 countries are to evaluate the new potato, with results expected by the end of 1992.

He said the team was also planning to work with Scottish researchers if hairy potatoes can be exempted from Britain's quarantine laws. Studies showed the cross-bred potato was protected against most major potato pests including aphids, the Colorado Beetle and thrips.

The main way in which the hairs defend the potato from pests was discovered by British scientists at the Rothamsted experimental station in Harpenden, Hertfordshire, part of the Agricultural and Food Research Council. Other scientists had already found that the short hairs produce a quick-setting fluid which, when touched, traps insects.

At the station, Richard

Gibson and John Pickett discovered that the long hairs also produce an aphid alarm chemical, a substance that mimics the smell made by aphids when attacked. The chemical, which operates at one to three millimetres above the leaves, causes other aphids to shun the plant, helping the potato to avoid being eaten and becoming infected with virus-carrying insects.

The potato could have important implications in the developing world, where insects can destroy huge quantities of crops and where pesticides are relatively expensive. Professor Pickett said he also believed that the discovery could affect the cultivation of seedling potatoes in Britain. Most potato seedlings are now grown in Scotland where there is less disease.

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NSPCC reports on children's home danger

Hundreds abused in care

BY JEREMY LAURANCE, SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

HUNDREDS of children in care have been sexually and physically abused in the residential homes that were supposed to protect them, according to the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

The abuse has occurred at the hands of both staff and older children in the homes. Victims of sexual abuse are at greater than average risk of becoming abusers in their turn.

A quarter of the NSPCC's 60 child protection teams around the country are investigating cases of institutional abuse or working with the victims, according to Jim Harding, director of child care services. "It is one of our biggest concerns," he said at the launch yesterday of the society's annual report.

In Leicester, a special telephone help line set up following the Frank Beck case, which revealed widespread abuse in children's homes in the county over many years, received over 100 calls from adults who had suffered problems later as a result of their abuse.

"The children who go into

a home are the most vulnerable you can imagine," Mr Harding said. "For abuse then to take place in an institution that is supposed to be caring for them must be one of the cruelest things that you can dish out to any human being."

He said that cases had come to light in at least eight counties including Essex.

● This kind of abuse must be one of the cruelest things you can dish out to any human being ●

Berkshire, Hereford and Worcester, Leicestershire, Staffordshire and Croydon. "We know of abuse in both children's homes and boarding schools. Abuse in schools, both private and local authority, is at least as prevalent as in the homes. Given the scale of abuse that occurs in institutions we are talking about hundreds of children."

Concern about institutional abuse had been around for a long time but had remained hidden from the public, Mr

Harding said. "In the past it has been completely ignored. But now more and more cases are coming forward. I don't know how big the iceberg is but I'm sure there are other cases to come to light."

Bob Lewis, secretary of the Association of Directors of Social Services, said that abuse by staff in children's homes "does take place on occasions". But there was also a problem of abuse by other children. "If you put a number of children who have been sexually abused together there is a risk that they may continue the practice but this time as the abusers."

A high proportion of staff in residential homes are unqualified and poorly paid. From next month local authorities are required to negotiate new higher pay scales following the interim report of the local government review of residential care chaired by Lady Howe.

This is the first of a flurry of reports due out in the next few months. An enquiry set up by the National Children's Home is shortly to report on the extent of child abuse by other children in residential

homes. The full Howe report will also be published soon. A government enquiry into the recruitment and retention of residential workers set up after the Beck case and chaired by Norman Warner, former social services director in Kent, is to report in July.

The government has said that it wants all senior staff in residential homes qualified

● I don't know how big the iceberg is but I'm sure there are other cases to come to light ●

within two years, up from the present level of 60 per cent.

Mr Harding said that the recession had increased the society's workload. Although funds had increased they had not kept pace with the rising cost of services, and 90 staff had been made redundant. The society's new helpline, for anyone worried about the welfare of a child, had received 120,000 calls in its first year. "We have far more requests for help than we can respond to," he said.



Heavy metal: a gilt collar with cross and star by Christian Lacroix, an example of extraordinary 20th century costume jewellery on show at the Victoria and Albert Museum from tomorrow

Irish pay tribute to reluctant celebrity

BY EDWARD GORMAN, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

FORGET the election, forget St Patrick's Day. Today is the birthday of Bertha, an old lady with no teeth and a black and white face — reputedly the oldest cow in the world.

Bertha, 48 today, also holds the record as the most prolific producer of calves with 39 to her name. Yesterday a million people listened to Gay Byrne's morning radio show as Ireland celebrated Bertha's birthday with a broadcast from her home town of Blackwater Bridge in Co Kerry.

There was traditional Irish music, recitals of ballads and poetry written for the occasion, and discussion of the possibility that when Bertha finally does turn her toes up, she might be snuffed by the local taxidermist, who said that his biggest project to date was a donkey.

Bertha turned out to be something of a reluctant star. Her owner, Jerome O'Leary, said she was "pretty nervous" around strangers. But he has a remedy for his old Kerry cow. "I give her a drop of whiskey or a drop of potent to build her up," he said.

Mr O'Leary said that he could still remember St Patrick's Day 1946 when he and some friends bought Bertha at a fair in nearby Sneem.

"The four men that were with me are dead, but Bertha is still alive." The secret of her long life, he said, was that, come rain or shine, she had always lived outdoors.

Since producing her 39th calf five years ago, Bertha has helped to raise money for charity with celebrity appearances. Last year she contributed £23,000 to cancer research.

Trapped woman dragged by train

BY PETER VICTOR

A WOMAN aged 85 whose arm was trapped in a train door was dragged screaming for more than 100ft along a station platform after a guard signalled the driver to pull out, Leeds crown court was told yesterday. The woman died later in hospital.

Frances Foster, aged 42, a British Rail guard, of Addingham, West Yorkshire, denies wilfully endangering the life of Annette Rose, of Ilkley, West Yorkshire, through neglect of her duties.

Andrew Campbell, for the prosecution, said that it was the guard's duty to make sure that all doors were clear of passengers before shutting them and signalling the driver to set off. "By her reckless neglect, not only did she endanger the life of passengers, but she was responsible for that lady losing her life," he said. "It is one of the guard's most basic duties. She failed to carry out a simple check."

Mr Campbell praised Irvine Holdsworth and Gary Roebuck, who tried to help Mrs Rose as the train dragged her along the platform at Guiseley station, near Leeds. "Mr Holdsworth ran after the train and supported the weight of Mrs Rose and tried to free her arm," he said. As the train gained speed he could not keep up and was forced to let go.

Mr Holdsworth told the court: "I made a grab for her and tried to pull her arm out of the door but couldn't. When the train stopped she was still trapped in the door." While he tried to help Mrs Rose, Mr Roebuck banged on the train windows until the guard alerted the driver.

The case continues today.

Climber's death hits K2 attempt

BY KERRY GILL

THE British lightweight expedition to climb K2, the world's second highest mountain, is almost certain to be cancelled because of the death of Andy Fanshawe, who fell from an ice ridge on Lochnagar in the Cairngorms on Saturday.

Mr Fanshawe, aged 28, was one of the most respected mountaineers in Britain. Yesterday Jim Fotheringham, who was climbing with him and Ulrich Jessop on Saturday, said: "I think it is very unlikely that the expedition will go ahead. Andy was very much the driving force behind the expedition to K2."

The fourth member of the team, which planned to tackle the Himalayan mountain alpine-style — without oxygen or fixed ropes — was Alan Hinkes. It has emerged that Mr

Jessop, whose wife Cathy died from altitude sickness in the Himalayas during the couple's honeymoon last October, lost another mountaineering friend in 1986. Mr Jessop was one of three climbers on Broad Peak in the Karakoram range in northern Kashmir when Liam Elliot, of Edinburgh, fell to his death near the 8,035m summit.

William Jessop, Ulrich Jessop's father, said that his son was shattered by the latest tragedy. He and Mr Fanshawe were on what was supposed to have been a "fun weekend" in preparation for the K2 expedition. Police had questioned the climbing party and his son now regarded the events, including the death of his wife, as a "private matter of public concern, but not of public interest".

ITV unveils summer package

IAN Richardson and Anna Massey are to star in Patricia Highsmith's thriller, *Under a Dark Angel's Eye*, on independent television. It is one of a range of dramas in the commercial stations' £150 million spring and summer schedules.

The plays include *Angels*, featuring Alfred Molina and Cathy Tyson, about three heavenly souls who come down to earth, and *Hostage*, which stars Sam Neill as a secret service agent who has to question his loyalties, and James Fox and Art Malik.

More suspense will be generated in *The Jazz Detective*, featuring Daniel Webb as a saxophonist who turns sleuth when embroiled in a murder. Tom Courtenay will appear in *The Last Butterfly*, about a mime artiste who has to choose between helping the German propaganda war machine or risking his life.

LWT's current affairs department has produced *Brinkley-Mat*, a documentary-drama about one of Britain's most notorious robberies. A two-hour conservation special, *Endangered Species*, features a soundtrack with special contributions from Elton John, Kate Bush, and Peter Gabriel.

George Cole is abandoning his role as Arthur Daley for some more upmarket scams in *Root Into Europe*. He plays Henry Root, an eccentric Englishman who imagines that the odd fiver as a backhand will open doors in any walk of life.

Boots and GP pay damages

Boots the chemist and a GP are to pay £120,000 agreed damages in settlement of a patient's claim that she suffered brain damage as a result of being prescribed an overdose of a cholinergic drug.

The negligence action brought by Joan Edwards, aged 64, of Whetstone, north London, had been scheduled for five days in the High Court.

Bowbelle case

A private prosecution for unlawful killing brought against the owners of the dredger Bowbelle by Ivor Glogg, husband of one of the victims of the Marchioness sinking on the Thames in 1989, was adjourned until April 28 at Bow Street magistrates' court.

Solicitor stole

Dawn Colebrook, a solicitor from Newport, Gwent, pleaded guilty at Cardiff crown court to 13 charges of theft involving more than £150,000, mostly from clients, and two of false accounting. The case was adjourned.

Rope request

Robert Wilson, East Berkshire coroner, refused to let Sarah Sheikh, of George Green, Buckinghamshire, have the rope her husband Sajid committed suicide with.

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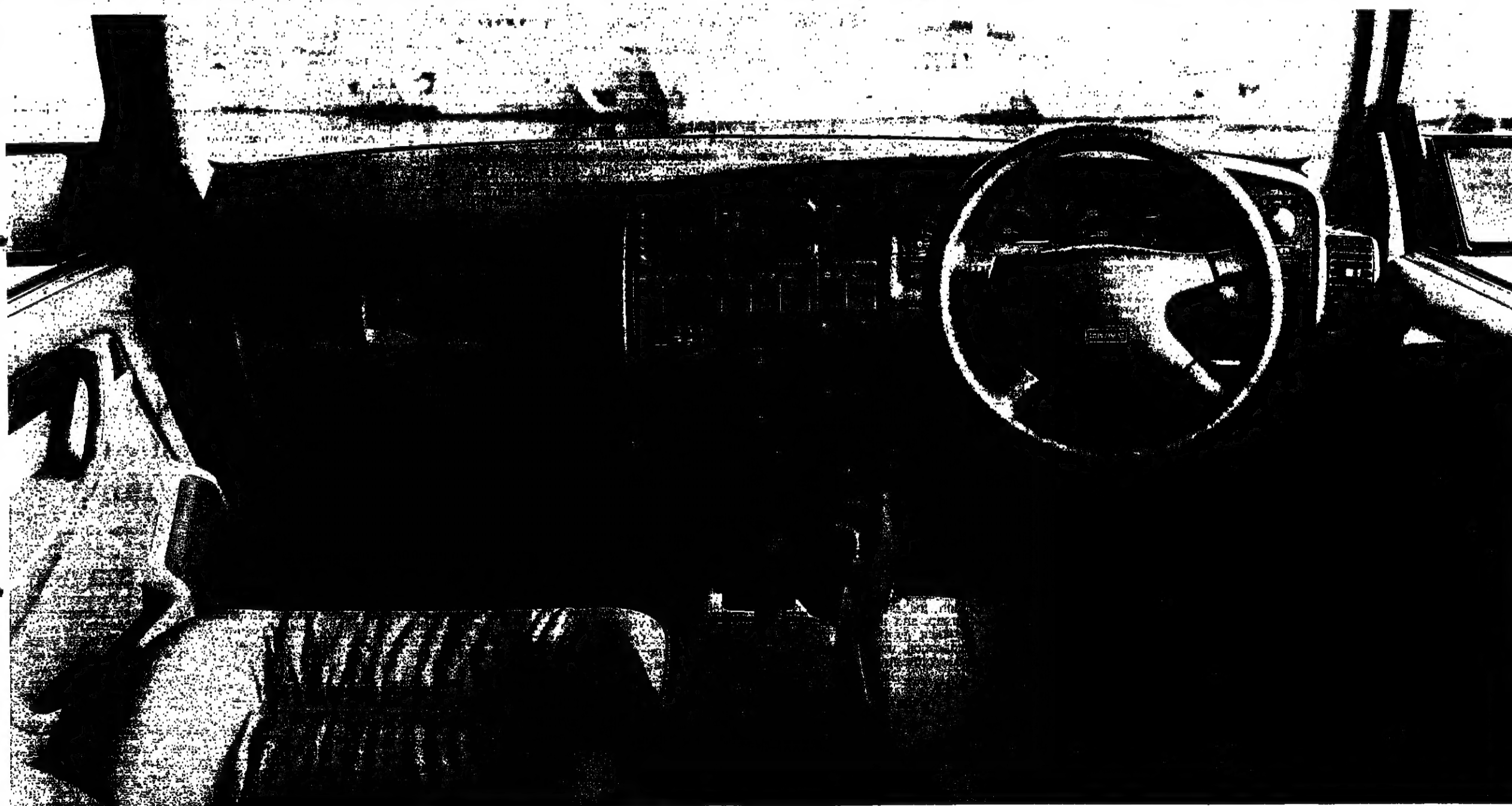
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New 50% top rate would fund investment and make 'vast majority' better off

Smith offers 'good deal for the average taxpayer'

By Philip Webster and Robin Oakley

LABOUR's alternative Budget would mean that every worker earning up to £22,000 a year would benefit and 740,000 people would be taken out of tax altogether, John Smith, the shadow Chancellor, said yesterday.

Presenting what he called "the Budget Britain needs", the shadow Chancellor said his plans would achieve recovery from recession, provide much needed investment in health and education and other public services, cut taxes for the vast majority, and give special help to families with children, pensioners and the least well off. It was, he said, "a pretty good deal for the average taxpayer".

Mr Smith announced extra spending of £1 billion on the health service, £600 million on education and an immediate £1.1 billion recovery programme to tackle the recession. Details will be unveiled by shadow ministers this week.

These were in addition to its existing plans to increase child benefit and pensions. Labour's increased spending would be financed by a new 50 per cent top rate of tax brought in on gross incomes of £40,000 and lifting the ceiling on national insurance contributions. Labour will raise £2.7 billion in a full year by its decision to levy the 9 per cent national insurance charge on earnings above £21,060 a year on the same basis as those below it.

The Labour leadership gave serious consideration to phasing the change because of fears it might alienate middle class supporters in the South-east but decided against it because it needed the revenue to pay for the benefit and spending increases and to avoid the confusion that a staged system would have involved.

The other key change announced by Mr Smith was his decision to raise the personal tax allowance for all taxpayers by £330 a year or 10 per cent, taking it to £3,625. Mr Smith said that this proposal was the most effective way of assisting low-paid families and confirmed, as expected, that he would reverse the new 20 per cent band for the first £2,000 of earnings introduced by Norman Lamont in his Budget last week.

As a result of the rise in the thresholds, 740,000 people would be taken out of income tax altogether, 360,000 more than if they went up purely in line with inflation. Mr Smith announced that he had dropped Labour's proposed "savings tax" under which a 9 per cent national insurance charge would have been levied on unearned income from redundancy settlements.

Mr Smith delivered a pledge that neither in this Budget nor in any other throughout the next Parliament would Labour increase the basic rate of income tax

THE MAIN SPENDING PLEDGES

- Income tax: Personal allowances to be increased by £330 a year, or 10 per cent, well over twice the amount required to keep pace with inflation. The allowance would be £3,625, £180 above indexation.
- A new top rate of tax of 50 per cent will come in at incomes of £40,000 and above (taxable income £36,375). The 25 per cent basic rate and 40 per cent higher rate will remain unchanged.
- Labour's plan to introduce a "savings tax", a 9 per cent charge on unearned income over £3,000, is dropped.
- Married couples will have the option of splitting the married couples' allowance between them as they choose.
- National insurance: The ceiling on national insurance contributions will be lifted, meaning that people will pay the 9 per cent national insurance charge on their incomes over £21,060 a year.
- The lower 2 per cent contribution on earnings under £54 a week will be abolished, meaning a £56 a year gain for all employees.
- National insurance contributions will be extended to taxable benefits in kind bringing in £200 million in a full year.
- Increase in spending on the health service by £1 billion and on education by £600 million.
- Increase in child benefit to £5.95 a week for all children. That would mean higher child benefit for 12 million children and is worth £127 a year increase.
- Retirement pension to be increased by £5 a week for a single person and £8 for a married couple. The cost of the two measures would be £3.3 billion in a full year.
- An immediate £1.1 billion recovery programme consisting of manufacturing investment incentives, measures to give job experience and training and stem the rise in long-term unemployment; and a boost to housing through a phased release of capital receipts held by local authorities.

above 25 per cent or the 40 per cent higher rate. The lower paid would also be helped by a further reform of national insurance which would abolish the 2 per cent charge on earnings above £54 a week, a measure which, he said, would mean a £56 a year gain for all employees. That change and the higher

TAXATION

thresholds will go some way to softening the impact of the lifting of the national insurance ceiling.

Mr Smith said that the combined effects of the national insurance reforms and the increased personal allowance would mean that a single person on average earnings would receive an increase in disposable income of over £100 a year.

Taking into account the proposed increase in child benefit, the average two-earner family with two children would receive an increase in disposable income of £311 a year.

He emphasised that the tax reductions and benefit improvements would be financed not by borrowing, but by the tax increases he proposed.



Aiming high: The shadow Chancellor with his team on the Treasury steps yesterday before announcing the alternative budget: Paul Boateng (left), Margaret Beckett, John Smith, Dr John Marek and Chris Smith

£600m is pledged for schools

By John O'Leary

EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR yesterday put a price on its education proposals but would not say how the money would be spent.

The party's alternative budget promised an extra £600 million for education in the first year of a Labour government. The supply side of the economy had been neglected. The government had failed to invest and had failed to encourage others to invest for the long term. The result had been a net decline in manufacturing investment since 1979, cuts in education and training, reduced research and development and a crumbling infrastructure.

Between 1990 and 1991 output had fallen by 2.5 per cent. The present recession had lasted longer than any since the 1930s and unemployment had risen by one

EDUCATION

of only 2.5 per cent. The scrapping of some existing programmes, such as the independent schools' assisted places scheme, will add to the total available.

Although the party is committed to increasing education spending from the present 4.6 per cent of GNP to the 1979 level of 5.5 per cent, for example, it has never volunteered a timescale.

Some of the main planks of Labour's education programme would be relatively cheap to implement. The Education Standards Commission, which would link national and local inspection services, is expected to cost £10 million to set up, while the restoration of 1990 levels of student grants would be balanced by savings on the government's loans scheme.

The guarantee of a nursery place for all three and four-year-olds whose parents want one, the expansion of provision for the 16-to-19 age group, and the doubling of student numbers in higher education, would all require heavy investment.

Everyone who earns under £22,000 a year will gain. That is the vast majority of the population. He said that if Labour takes office, he would be proposing no other tax increases in his first budget.

Other reforms include: The 2 per cent incentive for people opting out of the state earnings-related pensions scheme will be withdrawn, raising £820 million. Exemption of workplace nurseries from tax extended to all forms of employer help with childcare at a cost of £5 million a year. The abolition of stamp duty on share transactions will be postponed, retaining the 0.5 per cent duty on share transactions, raising £790 million.

Nation's malaise blamed on Tory mismanagement

By Our Political Staff

SETTING the scene for his shadow budget, John Smith said that Labour would be inheriting an economy badly mismanaged for 13 years.

The supply side of the economy had been neglected. The government had failed to invest and had failed to encourage others to invest for the long term. The result had been a net decline in manufacturing investment since 1979, cuts in education and training, reduced research and development and a crumbling infrastructure.

Between 1990 and 1991 output had fallen by 2.5 per cent. The present recession had lasted longer than any since the 1930s and unemployment had risen by one

million since June 1990. It was now two and a half times higher than in 1979.

The shadow chancellor said: "The Conservatives failed to forecast the recession when it started, underestimated both its severity and its length and overestimated how soon a recovery would occur." He denied Tory claims that events in the rest of the world had caused the UK recession.

Labour's "Red Book" says that the immediate cause of the recession was the fall in domestic demand, attributable directly to the Conservative policy of high interest rates. Three more deep seated factors were that consumers

and firms built up excessively high levels of debt in the 1980s, the Conservatives had cut taxes in the 1987 and 1988 budgets in the middle of the borrowing spree, and that "the deep rift throughout the Conservative party in its attitude to Europe delayed entry to the ERM".

On the supply side, the problems were the persistent failure to correct weakness in education and training and the reduction in the long term capacity of manufacturing industry, the key tradable sector of the economy.

Mr Smith argued that the way to defeat inflation in the medium term was by building efficient and competitive industry. Recovery had to be investment-led. "Borrowing for investment is justified because it is borrowing that can be paid back."

The task of economic policy, said Mr Smith, was to produce a framework for long-term decisions. Labour's framework would consist of:

□ An industrial policy which encouraged long term competitive investment in capacity, people and ideas.

□ Membership of the Exchange Rate Mechanism with, in due course, movement to narrow bands at the existing parity.

□ The fiscal principle that the government should only borrow for investment, reinforced by the convergence criteria of the Maastricht treaty.

Market forces, said the shadow chancellor, were not enough to guarantee competitive market success. "It is the responsibility of government both to invest, and to encourage others to invest, in education and training, in research and development and in the infrastructure."

Labour has said it would restore the "underfunding" of the health service over the lifetime of a parliament. But Robin Cook, shadow health spokesman, has refused to name a figure until he has "seen the books."

Labour pledges £1 bn for health spending

By Jeremy Laurence

FOR the first time Labour has named a figure on funding for the NHS by pledging a minimum of £1 billion extra for the service in the first year.

This would be an extra 3 per cent in cash terms on top of current plans and would double the growth money available for next year.

Plans spending for 1992-93 shows the NHS's budget due to rise by £3.1 billion from £33.1 to £36.2 billion, or 9.4 per cent. Assuming inflation is held below 6.4 per cent this will leave £1 billion for growth. Labour's pledge would double that figure.

Pay rises for next year already agreed with doctors, dentists, nurses and professions allied to medicine will

cost health authorities less than 5 per cent because the government agreed to pay the excess from the contingency fund. If Labour were to honour this agreement, and add its £1 billion on top, the total growth available to the NHS would be over 7 per cent. No details were given on how the money would be distributed. These are to be released in a detailed health budget later in the campaign.

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Labour's £37 billion of promises, Mr Patten said.

Mr Patten dismissed Labour's proposals as an "iceberg budget", saying that it was just the beginning of higher taxes all round. "We are going to bound Labour over tax and spending from here to polling day," he said.

Tony Newton, the social security secretary, said that Labour's plan to save £820 million by ending the 2 per cent incentive for people to opt out of Serps would be damaging for 4.5 million people, most of them under 40 and on below average pay.

The 2 per cent rebates apply until 1993 and are paid a year in arrears. In 1993/94, holders of private pension plans could normally expect rebates on 1992/93 pension contributions. However, Mr Newton said, Labour was planning a retrospective strike against people who took out plans up to four years ago. "If Labour is elected... the basis of all 4.5 million pension contributions will be wrecked," he said.

The pension change made mockery of Labour's claim that no one earning less than £22,000 a year would be worse off under its plans.

REACTION

By Nicholas Wood, Political Correspondent

LABOUR's alternative budget proposals would deliver a "knock-out punch" to 3.5 million people earning over £22,000 a year. Norman Lamont said last night as the Conservatives mounted a counter-offensive to John Smith's revised tax and spending proposals.

Ministers concentrated their fire on the Opposition's decision to press ahead with abolition of the £21,060 annual earnings ceiling on National Insurance contributions (Nics).

The Chancellor said that the combination of the Nics change and the 50 per cent top rate of tax on earnings of over £40,000 a year would make Britain one of the highest taxed nations in the Western world.

Even with Mr Benn in a Labour cabinet, the 50 per cent tax rate only applied at incomes above £57,000 at today's prices," Mr Lamont said. He predicted higher interest rates, devastation for house prices and an end to the chances of recovery as the most enterprising section of society staggered under soaring taxes.

The Tories also argued that the extra £1 billion for the NHS and £600 million for

training would be swallowed up by higher pay and other pledges that would do nothing for patients and jobs. People seeking new skills, the employment secretary, said that any potential gains would be wiped out by pledges such as the "rate for the job" on training courses and the minimum wage in the NHS.

Ministers also opened up a second front in their attacks on their chief rivals by accusing them of planning to rob 4.5 million private pension holders of discounts worth up to £360 a year.

Chris Patten, the Tory party chairman, claimed that Labour was in full retreat. It had spent weeks denouncing tax cuts as a bribe and "saying that every penny piece of money available should go on public spending."

However, the public knew that Mr Smith's latest offering was a "phony budget" and that everyone would eventually face higher taxes under Labour. "The voters are not mugs, they know that even a massive tax hike for those on above-average incomes would not pay for

Labour's £37 billion of promises," Mr Patten said.

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The pension change made mockery of Labour's claim that no one earning less than £22,000 a year would be worse off under its plans.

Factories' tax relief to be increased

LABOUR'S Strategic Framework for Finance and Industry (SFFI), Mr Smith said, provided a clear structure of monetary and fiscal discipline linked to a coherent supply-side policy. It was a precondition for successful fulfilment of the Maastricht treaty convergence terms.

The shadow chancellor said that Labour's budget would retain a number of measures in Norman Lamont's March 10 Budget, notably those to increase business cash flow through alterations to the Uniform Business Rate, policies to help small businesses and special assistance for the car industry in

INDUSTRY

the form of a car tax reduction from 10 per cent to 5 per cent. However, to bring the economy out of recession, action was needed to promote investment in manufacturing, to tackle the skills crisis, to bring opportunity to the unemployed and to revive the construction industry.

A manufacturing investment initiative would increase first-year capital allowances for manufacturing industry to 40 per cent for specific investment in plant, machinery, innovation and design for an initial period of one year. The proposal, to be reviewed after a year, "should provide a significant incentive to manufacturing investment which, regrettably, fell by 14 per cent in 1991".

To start to build a world-class workforce, there would be a £300 million "Skills for the Nineties" fund, as well as restoration of Conservative cuts in employment training and youth training. Mr Smith said: "We propose a radical new employment programme, also costing £300 million, which, by providing job experience and training, will help stem the rise in long-term unemployment."

The red book says that the job experience programme would "promote work of benefit to the community as well as helping the unemployed" and added: "Training will be available to those on the programme and people on it will be paid a rate for the job."

To stimulate the building trade and provide much-needed housing, councils would be allowed a "phased release" of capital releases.

British Rail would immediately be allowed "to proceed with a pilot leasing scheme to alleviate the rolling stock on the North Kent line", the red book said.

Not quite the real thing

By Robin Oakley

JOHN Smith, not always known for the slimline, took just twenty minutes to outline his shadow budget compared with Norman Lamont's 70 minutes on March 10.

Labour was trying to make it look like the real thing and a statistical "red book" was issued when Mr Smith concluded. But since he had been given no access to the Treasury's computers and statisticians it ran to a mere 12 pages compared with the 79 of the real thing.

At least the shadow chancellor forbore to wave his briefcase at the photographers when he and his frontbench team posed in front of the Treasury. That might have figured on too many comedy Christmas cards if it all went wrong on April 9.

The unfruffed Mr Smith coasted jocularly through a 40 minute press conference afterwards, with Jack Cunningham, the resident MC, refusing to allow questions to be put to Neil Kinnock.

When a *Times* story on the severity of Labour's tax plans was quoted Mr Smith declared himself "charmed" by allegation that he would be "even more ferocious than Denis Healey". To another questioner concerned about City stockbrokers' reactions he confided that they had not worried too much about how Surrey stockbrokers might be mobilised.

Revealing that he himself, on an MP's £30,000 a year, would be some £800 out of pocket with his package, Mr Smith said that he would be happy to pay up in the interests of a fairer society and better public services.

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WATTS

MAY 1992

Labour proposals take 740,000 out of the tax net

BY LINDSAY COOK, MONEY EDITOR

TWO-earner families on average salaries will be best off under Labour's budget. Those earning above £22,000 a year will pay for the measures with higher national insurance contributions.

A 50 per cent tax band will be charged on taxable earnings over £36,375, which means single people will begin to pay it on earnings over £40,000. A single-earner family on £100,000 a year will be almost £13,000 a year worse off under Labour. Their net income will be £52,090, compared with £64,930 under the Tories.

The Labour party will raise the starting point for income tax by £330 to £3,625. That will take 740,000 people out of taxation. It will, however, scrap the 20p tax band announced in last week's Budget. This tax rate for the first £2,000 of earnings will mean that four million taxpayers will only pay tax on earnings and savings at 20p.

Labour will abolish the poverty trap that occurs with national insurance contributions for low-paid workers by getting rid of the 2 per cent band on earnings under £54 a week. Child benefit will increase by 30p for first children and £2.15 for others to give them all a weekly allowance of £9.95.

The ceiling for national insurance contributions will be abolished. That will mean income above £21,060 will be subject to the 9 per cent employee's contribution. Employees now pay only up to the ceiling, although employers pay contributions on the whole amount of wages. Benefits in kind, such as private medical cover will also be subject to national insurance.

A new higher-rate tax band of 50 per cent will be charged on taxable income of £36,375. That means that single people have to earn at least £40,000 to pay the higher rate and married couples more.

Plans to charge an extra tax on interest on savings and above £3,000 a year were left out of the budget because it was not possible to exempt

FAMILIES

those who were living off savings after having been made redundant, Mr Smith said.

The tax changes will be backdated to April 6 if Labour forms the next government and the national insurance changes will be implemented from July 1. The increase in child benefit and raising state pensions by £5 for single pensioners and £8 for married couples would start in November, unless it proved possible to bring them forward, Mr Smith added.

The changes would make the average two-earner family with two children £311 a year better off.

Two-earner couples will be £3.53 a week better off if their income is between £10,000 and £35,000 and they have no children. With one child they will be £3.83 a week better off and with two children £5.98 better off. At £40,000, they will be £1.56 a week worse off without children, £1.26 worse off with one child and 89p with two children.

A single person on average earnings will gain £100 a year. At £22,000 a year, a single person would be 32p a week worse off. At £25,000,

he or she would be £4.88 worse off and at £40,000 he or she would lose £33.50 a year.

Families with one earner will be 4p a week worse off at £22,000 a year with no children and £2.41 a week better off if they have two children. At £25,000, the one-earner family with two children will be £2.78 a week worse off.

Couples will be able to split the married couple's tax allowance of £1,720 between them as they choose. That will enable couples where the wife is a higher-rate taxpayer and the husband is not to be up to £258 a year better off. That was also proposed in last week's Budget for the year starting April next year.

Employer-provided child-care benefits will be exempted from tax to bring them into line with workplace nurseries. Schemes devised to avoid employers' national insurance contributions have grown up in recent months. These will now be subject to national insurance contributions.

The 2 per cent bonus paid to the four million employees who have contracted out of the state earnings-related pensions scheme will be removed from April 6.

IF IT achieved nothing else John Smith's skilfully presented, but broadly predictable, alternative budget should have convinced the idea that there is no difference on economic policy between the two major parties.

Both Labour and Conservatives may be stuck with monetary policies dictated from Frankfurt and public finances debauched by recession. But even within the straitjacket of ERM-dictated macroeconomics, Mr Smith has found plenty of room to set out an unmistakably socialist programme that would have put any previous Labour Chancellor to shame.

Never before has an opposition party announced in advance a redistribution of income on anything like the scale now planned by Labour. Rarely has the difference between the parties in attitudes to public spending been more explicit. And never has Labour been more explicit in its commitment to help the poor with very expensive universal benefits, instead of more cost-effective, but arguably divisive, targeted and means-tested help.

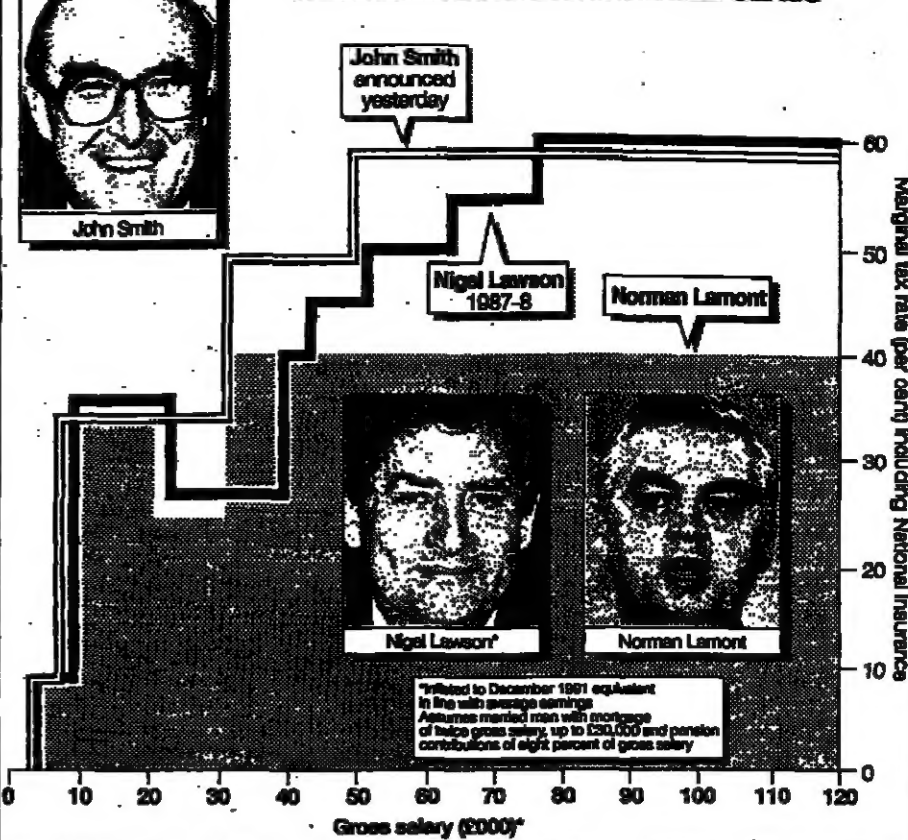
Redistribution was at the heart of Mr Smith's budget. There has been only one occasion in recent history when a government has undertaken social engineering on anything like the scale announced yesterday. That was in Mrs Thatcher's first Budget, which slashed income tax rates at the expense of a virtual doubling in value added

Smith turns the tables on Thatcher's children

BY ANATOLE KALETSKY, ECONOMICS EDITOR



HARD TIMES FOR THE MIDDLE CLASS



tax and redistributed income from the poor to the rich. That time the electorate was carefully kept in the dark.

This time, Labour has been admirably frank. Its officials did not even try to disguise their glee at the prospect of turning the tables on the beneficiaries of Thatcherism. As Mr Smith said in the one impassioned moment of his generally cool presentation: "We have had 13 years when

people at the top got preferential treatment from the government. In this budget we are starting to talk for the ordinary people of this country."

In all, Labour's proposals would increase the tax take from the rich — defined as people earning more than the national insurance upper earnings limit of roughly £21,000 a year — by £5.14 billion. From £25,000 up-

wards the losses would mount rapidly, reaching £1,800 for childless people on £40,000 and £3,700 at £50,000 a year.

In justifying the unprecedented taxes he was proposing for the middle class, Mr Smith made the valid point that he was not the only one who had targeted the £30,000 to £50,000 group for higher taxes. A man on £30,000 would be £1,500 worse off after his budget than his counterpart would have been in 1978, Mr Smith conceded. But only £700 of that loss would be due to the Labour budget proposals. The other £800 had been steadily taxed away by the Conservatives in 13 years when tax brackets failed to keep up with earnings growth.

The biggest beneficiaries from Mr Smith's redistribution would be two-earner families with several children on very low incomes. A couple with two children and two earners making £8,000 between them would gain £240 a year relative to Mr Lamont's proposals and be £311 better off than they are today. Those gains may seem surprisingly paltry relative to the large amounts being raised in new taxes. There are two reasons for that, which go to the heart of the two other distinctive features of Labour's en-

tire economic philosophy. By choosing to raise universally available child benefits, pensions and personal allowances, Mr Smith has given a large part of his largesse to the better-off, whom he was taxing from the other pocket. But even granted Labour's aversion to means-testing, Mr Smith was raising far more money from the affluent than he needed to pay for his desired income redistribution. In total, Mr Smith's budget would produce £9.06 billion in new revenues in a full year, including not only the taxes on the rich but the imposts on company share transactions, changes in the opening-out provisions for private pensions and the reversal of Mr Lamont's 20 per cent tax band. Of that only £5.55 billion will be spent on higher pensions, child benefits and other tax reliefs.

That will leave £3.51 billion in extra revenues for a Labour government to put into new public spending programmes from 1993-4. Of that £3.5 billion, roughly £1 billion is committed already for training, education and health, but Labour officials acknowledged that roughly £2.7 billion would remain to be allocated by shadow spending ministers during the course of the election campaign and in the Labour government's first year.

It is that unallocated extra spending that crystallises the differences between the two major parties. The Tory government's recently inflated spending plans already allow for public spending growth of about 5 per cent in real terms. Labour feels it needs leeway to add a further £2.7 billion annually, beyond the commitments on health, training and education it has already made. That extra spending happens to be exactly equal to the revenue raised by abolishing the national insurance ceiling — the measure that will add far more than any other to the cost of a Labour government for the moderately well paid.

Mr Smith could easily have confined his tax increases to the genuinely rich — people earning more than £50,000 — and still paid for all his party's announced commitments on social spending, health and education. But Labour felt it needed the leeway to spend even more and that the affluent could afford to pay more. Mr Smith's made his choice crystal clear yesterday. Now it will be the turn of the voters.

How Labour's plans would affect typical families



Labour's alternative budget proposals would put £10 more a year after tax into the pockets of a married couple with one child with

by £330 a year (10 per cent) or £180 a year above statutory indexation.

Labour's proposals would increase the tax bill of a married couple with a non-working wife and two children earning £45,000 a year by £2,225 a year on 1991-92. Although their personal allowance would have increased by £330 a year, their national insurance contribution would go up from £1,636 in 1991-1992 to £3,797 under Labour in a full year. The family would be £129 a year better off after tax under the Conser-

vatives this year than it was last year. The family would have £31,894 in net income instead of £31,765.

A Labour government would leave a married couple with a non-working wife and two children and a gross annual income of £100,000 £12,875 worse off than they are in the current year. This is mainly due to the abolition of the upper earnings limit on national insurance contributions which would increase the level of national insurance to £8,747 up from £1,636 in 1991-1992. Under the Conser-

vatives, the national insurance contribution for 1992-1993 would be £1,699.

Old age pensions will increase by £8 for couples from November under the Labour budget. Total extra pension in 1992-1993 will be £208 per couple. A married couple aged between 65 and 74 earning £10,000 a year would be £345 better off under Labour because of pension and tax allowance increases. In a full year of pension increase they would be £562 better off. Increases in personal allowances and a cut in income tax to 20 per

cent on the first £2,000 of taxable income under Conservative Budget proposals would have cut the tax bill for a married couple both receiving a pension by £172 a year.

A single person with no children earning £45,000 a year would be £2,622 a year worse off under Labour than he or she was in 1991-1992. The abolition of the national insurance contribution ceiling under Labour would cost him or her £3,797. In 1991-1992, the payment would have been £1,636 and under the Conservatives in 1992-1993 £1,699.

MARRIED COUPLE, ONE CHILD											
Budget		Labour		Budget		Labour		Budget		Labour	
Husband	Wife	Husband	Wife	Husband	Wife	Husband	Wife	Husband	Wife	Husband	Wife
40,000 MORTGAGE											
GROSS ANNUAL INCOME	12,000	8,000	12,000	8,000	15,000	10,000	15,000	20,000	15,000	20,000	15,000
- Personal allowance	5,165	3,445	5,165	3,445	5,165	3,445	5,165	5,165	3,445	5,165	3,445
- Net mortgage interest	1,788	1,788	1,788	1,788	1,788	1,788	1,788	1,788	1,788	1,788	1,788
Taxable income	6,835	4,555	6,835	4,375	9,835	6,555	9,835	14,835	11,375	24,835	11,375
Tax thereon	1,809	1,039	1,809	1,094	2,359	1,339	2,414	3,809	2,844	6,279	2,844
NI contributions	883	523	883	510	1,153	703	1,153	1,693	1,153	2,447	1,097
Child benefit	0	502	0	510	0	502	0	502	0	502	0
NET INCOME	9,508	6,940	9,508	6,949	11,488	8,288	11,488	14,788	11,588	22,022	11,588
JOINT NET INCOME (tax %)	18,448	(-0.55)	18,458		18,748	(-0.03)	18,758	28,348	(-0.02)	28,358	
80,000 MORTGAGE											
GROSS ANNUAL INCOME	40,000	20,000	40,000	20,000	60,000	40,000	60,000	80,000	60,000	100,000	80,000
- Personal allowance	5,165	3,445	5,165	3,445	5,165	3,445	5,165	5,165	3,445	5,165	3,445
- Net mortgage interest	3,988	3,988	3,988	3,988	3,988	3,988	3,988	3,988	3,988	3,988	3,988
Taxable income	34,835	16,555	34,835	16,375	54,835	36,555	54,835	74,835	56,575	94,835	76,575
Tax thereon	10,279	4,039	10,279	4,094	18,279	10,967	20,135	29,279	18,367	30,135	20,995
NI contributions	1,699	1,057	1,699	1,010	2,414	1,359	2,414	3,699	2,447	5,447	2,844
Child benefit	0	502	0	510	0	502	0	502	0	502	0
NET INCOME	25,022	14,860	25,048	14,869	40,022	27,816	34,718	52,022	38,838	64,022	51,118
JOINT NET INCOME (tax %)	42,882	(9.51)	41,215		57,858	(7.03)	60,836	91,858	(23.33)	97,286	
MARRIED COUPLE, TWO CHILDREN											
Budget		Labour		Budget		Labour		Budget		Labour	
15,000		15,000		20,000		20,000		25,000		25,000	
- Personal allowance		5,165		5,165		5,165		5,165		5,165	
- Net mortgage interest		3,575		3,575		3,575		3,575		3,575	
Taxable income		9,835		14,835		19,835		24,835		29,835	
Tax thereon		2,359		3,809		4,859		6,279		7,939	
NI contributions		1,153		1,699		2,414		3,699		4,447	
Child benefit		906		972		906		972		972	
NET INCOME		12,398		15,781		19,350		22,930		26,338	
(% tax change)		(-0.09)		(-0.02)		(5.38)		(6.73)		(2.28)	
GROSS ANNUAL INCOME		45,000		60,000		100,000		140,000		180,000	
- Personal allowance		5,165		5,165		5,165		5,165		5,165	
- Net mortgage interest		7,975		7,975		7,975		7,975		7,975	
Taxable income		39,835		54,835		94,835		134,835		174,835	
Tax thereon		12,279		20,135		34,935		50,279		67,739	
NI contributions		1,699		2,414		3,699		5,447		7,199	
Child benefit		906		972		906		972		972	
NET INCOME		27,330		36,890		64,830		88,830		112,830	
(% tax change)		(17.58)		(26.55)		(33.87)		(38.45)		(41.34)	

MARRIED COUPLE, TWO CHILDREN												
	Budget		Labour		Budget		Labour		Budget		Labour	
	Husband	Wife	Husband	Wife	Husband	Wife	Husband	Wife	Husband	Wife	Husband	Wife
NO MORTGAGE												
INCOME (PENSIONS)	8,307	1,893	8,229	1,771	13,307	1,683	13,229	1,771	18,307	1,893	18,229	1,771
- Personal allowance	6,665	4,200	6,615	4,350	6,665	4,200	6,615	4,350	5,165	4,200	5,165	4,350
Taxable income	1,642	0	1,614	0	6,642	0	6,614	0	13,142	0	13,064	0
Tax thereon	328	0	354	0	1,561	0	1,604	0	3,168	0	3,221	0
NET INCOME	7,979	1,893	7,875	1,771	11,746	1,683	11,625	1,771	15,131	1,893	15,008	1,771
JOINT NET INCOME (tax %)	9,872	(7.33)	9,646		13,438	(2.75)	13,396		18,314	(1.10)	18,078	
	Budget		Labour		Budget		Labour		Budget		Labour	
	Husband	Wife	Husband	Wife	Husband	Wife	Husband	Wife	Husband	Wife	Husband	Wife
NO MORTGAGE												
INCOME (PENSIONS)	18,307	1,693	18,229	1,771	23,307	1,693	23,229	1,771	28,307	1,693	28,229	1,771
+ Investment income	6,000	4,000	6,000	4,000	6,000	4,000	6,000	4,000	6,000	4,000	6,000	4,000
- Personal allowance	5,165	4,200	5,345	4,350	5,165	4,200	5,345	4,350	5,165	4,200	5,345	4,350
Taxable income	19,142	1,693	18,884	1,321	24,142	1,493	23,884	1,421	28,142	1,493	27,884	1,421
Tax thereon	4,688	299	4,721	355	6,002	299	5,999	355	8,002	299	7,999	355
NET INCOME	18,621	5,394	19,508	5,416	23,306	5,394	23,330	5,416	25,306	5,394	25,230	5,416
JOINT NET INCOME (tax %)	25,015	(1.23)	24,924		29,898	(0.84)	29,846		31,699	(0.84)	31,648	

MARRIED COUPLE, OVER 75														
	Budget		Labour			Budget		Labour			Budget		Labour	
	Husband	Wife	Husband	Wife		Husband	Wife	Husband	Wife		Husband	Wife	Husband	Wife
NO MORTGAGE														
INCOME (PENSIONS)	9,307	1,693	9,307	1,771		13,307	1,693	13,229	1,771		18,307	1,693	18,229	1,771
+ Personal allowance	6,875	4,370	6,915	4,410		6,875	4,370	6,915	4,410		5,165	4,370	5,345	4,410
Taxable income	1,432	0	1,314	0		3,932	0	3,814	0		13,142	0	12,884	0
Tax thereon	286	0	329	0		883	0	954	0		1,508	0	1,578	0
NET INCOME	8,021	1,693	7,980	1,771		9,824	1,693	9,775	1,771		11,790	1,693	11,650	1,771
JOINT NET INCOME (tax %)	9,714	(-38.44)	9,671			11,577	(-17.85)	11,546			13,492	(-11.25)	13,421	
NO MORTGAGE														
INCOME (PENSIONS)	13,307	1,693	13,229	1,771		18,307	1,693	18,229	1,771		23,307	1,693	23,229	1,771
+ Investment income	6,000	4,000	6,000	4,000		6,000	4,000	6,000	4,000		6,000	4,000	6,000	4,000
+ Personal allowance	5,165	4,370	5,345	4,410		5,165	4,370	5,345	4,410		5,165	4,370	5,345	4,410
Taxable income	14,142	1,323	13,884	1,361		19,142	1,323	18,884	1,361		24,142	1,323	23,884	1,361
Tax thereon	3,436	265	3,471	340		4,686	265	4,721	340		6,002	265	5,999	340
NET INCOME	15,871	5,428	15,758	5,431		19,621	5,428	19,508	5,431		23,305	5,428	23,230	5,431
JOINT NET INCOME (tax %)	21,299	(2.97)	21,189			25,040	(2.22)	24,939			28,733	(1.15)	28,681	
NO MORTGAGE														
INCOME (PENSIONS)	13,307	1,693	13,229	1,771		18,307	1,693	18,229	1,771		23,307	1,693	23,229	1,771
+ Investment income	6,000	4,000	6,000	4,000		6,000	4,000	6,000	4,000		6,000	4,000	6,000	4,000
+ Personal allowance	5,165	4,370	5,345	4,410		5,165	4,370	5,345	4,410		5,165	4,370	5,345	4,410
Taxable income	14,142	1,323	13,884	1,361		19,142	1,323	18,884	1,361		24,142	1,323	23,884	1,361
Tax thereon	3,436	265	3,471	340		4,686	265	4,721	340		6,002	265	5,999	340
NET INCOME	15,871	5,428	15,758	5,431		19,621	5,428	19,508	5,431		23,305	5,428	23,230	5,431
JOINT NET INCOME (tax %)	21,299	(2.97)	21,189			25,040	(2.22)	24,939			28,733	(1.15)	28,681	

Top unit trust awards- A to Z of winners



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(Sunday Times UK Unit Trust
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Ban lifted
and radio in
with Sim

groups take
financial

insurance groups join

Ban lifted on TV and radio interviews with Sinn Fein

BY EDWARD GORMAN, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THE ban on broadcasting interviews with republican and loyalist groups that openly support paramilitary activity has been lifted in the run up to the general election.

For the next three and a half weeks, Sinn Fein candidates will be included in election-related broadcasts to argue their "armalite and ballot box" approach to politics.

During the campaign the regulations that keep Gerry Adams, the Sinn Fein president, and his closest colleagues off television and radio are lifted. However, the ban becomes operational the moment the polls close, so if Mr Adams holds his West Belfast seat, the public will not hear his victory speech in Belfast city hall.

Yesterday Sinn Fein's director of elections in North-

ern Ireland predicted that the temporary lifting of the ban would provide the party with the opportunity to make up any ground lost to it since the restrictions were introduced in 1988.

Jim Gibney, a member of Sinn Fein's national executive, said that the party was confident that it could increase its 11.4 per cent share of the nationalist vote in Northern Ireland, and retain the seat held by Mr Adams.

"We are confident that we can make up the ground over the next few weeks," Mr Gibney said. "Our view going into this election is that our electorate is sound and dependable."

This is the first Westminster election fought since the ban was introduced and there

has been considerable confusion about when precisely the restrictions, which also apply to ten other paramilitary and politically extreme organisations in the province, were lifted.

The BBC in Belfast and Sinn Fein both assumed that the restrictions ended at midnight last night after the dissolution of Parliament, and Sinn Fein has delayed its first main press conference until tomorrow. Ulster Television has already run election interviews with Sinn Fein representatives believing correctly, as the Home Office confirmed yesterday, that the ban ended as soon as the election was called last Wednesday.

Although the restrictions have been lifted, Sinn Fein and the other ten organisations are still excluded from making general statements that have no direct relevance to the election.

Critics of the legislation, which is likely to be scrapped if a Labour government takes office, say that it is absurd to lift the restrictions just when they could be most effective. The Home Office said that all legitimate candidates had an equal right to campaign during the special circumstances of a general election.

"If they are recognised as a legitimate political party, which Sinn Fein are, then they obviously have the right to campaign during that time," an official said.

The ban was introduced in 1988 after a review of security following an IRA attack at Ballygawley, Co. Tyrone, in which eight soldiers were killed as they returned to their barracks at Omagh. Margaret Thatcher cut short her holiday and ordered a review of security, which produced the broadcasting ban aimed at denying Sinn Fein and its supporters the oxygen of publicity.

It was strongly criticised by opposition politicians but sources in the government say that the ban has been a resounding success in keeping Sinn Fein off television. Privately, Sinn Fein has admitted that in the first years of the ban enquiries from all British broadcasting companies dropped by 75 per cent.

Culture change in heart of East End

DEEP in the heart of Stepney, under the shadow of the Docklands light railway, a plaque on the corner of Cable Street records the spot where, on a Sunday in October 1936, the Metropolitan police commissioner confronted Sir Oswald Mosley and 4,000 marching Blackshirts and told them to go home.

Were Sir Oswald to revisit the spot today, he would face overwhelming evidence that his anti-semitic, racist crusade had been an abject failure.

Estimates suggest that nearly one third of the votes in the constituency of Bethnal Green and Stepney where Peter Shore, the sitting MP, opened his election campaign last night, belong to the burgeoning Bangladeshi community who have made this rundown working-class area situated on the eastern fringes of the City their own.

Although comfortably ensconced with a majority of 5,284, Shore has seen a slow decline in the Labour vote. For an alien being, the Conservative candidate Lady Olga Maitland made a respectable showing in 1987 with 6,000 votes, but the true challengers are the Liberal Democrats, who increased their vote last time by 1.4 per cent, a modest improvement but very much against the national trend.

Tower Hamlets council, which covers the constituency and the neighbouring one of Bow and Poplar, has been firmly under Liberal-Democrat control since 1986, with 29 councillors to Labour's 21.

There are no Conservatives at all, not even from the wards encompassing the Porsche-infested Docklands housing developments, which are still responsible

STEPNEY Constituency profile by Alan Hamilton



MARTIN BEDDALL

Support role: stepping out in Stepney, where a third of votes will come from the Bangladeshi community

for returning Labour councillors. Old animosities still lurk beneath the bright, bland, middle-of-the-road surface. In 1983 the National Front put up a candidate who attracted 800 votes; they did not contest the seat in 1987. Last year Shore survived a Militant-inspired attempt to deselect him in favour of

Phil Maxwell, left-wing leader of the council's Labour group, allegedly because of Shore's support for the Gulf war.

Shore seems assured of retaining his seat but Jeremy Shaw, the Lib-Dem candidate who took nearly one third of the vote in 1987, will probably again come a respectable second. Tower

Hamlets is almost the only area of inner London to be experiencing a population increase, mainly because of the growing Bangladeshi community, and it is to them the Lib-Dems largely look for support.

"They come from an enterprise culture; they are not automatic Labour fodder," Mr Shaw said yesterday.

Majors take possession of a second-hand bus

JOHN Major seemed as wary as might any second-hand car buyer when his campaign "Battle Bus" was driven up to Tory headquarters in Smith Square yesterday for its inspection. Along the bus's flank, in giant letters, ran the motto: "John Major, the best future for Britain."

Looking at the vehicle, the prime minister mused privately about its recent history: one careful lady owner, revoked licence forces reluctant sale. He walked around it. Away from the cameras, perhaps he kicked the tyres.

Then he and his wife Norma took a tentative step on board, turning briefly to wave to the media people. "Can you give a wave for the Evening Standard?" cried the Evening Standard's photographer. "With how many fingers?" came Mr Major's obediently smiling reply. "With how many fingers?" presumably being what media-trained politicians say instead of "Cheese".

When the cameras had had their fill of fingers, Mr Major leant down to Norma, standing on the step below, hugged her shoulders affectionately and with the words, "Come on, in you come," steered her into their new mobile home.

as if they had just said cheerio to dinner guests.

However, once inside the armour-plated Plaxton Duple coach, Mr Major seemed too excited to think of filling the hot water bottles and making the cocoa. "It's an astonishing 'Battle Bus'... Everything you could want on the move and more... You can even stand up in it without stooping!... It's a bit special, isn't it?"

On board are computers, telephones and fax machines. The bus even has thick grey carpet up the walls, which gives it the feel of a padded security cell. Nobody seemed to know if this feature was installed by the previous owner or was part of the latest refurbishment. There is a kitchenette at the back, which goes some way towards explaining why the couple had spent the morning shopping in the market town of St Ives in Mr Major's Huntingdon constituency.

They had filled their baskets with rump steak, three pork chops, a pound of pig's liver, dried apricots, smoked salmon and a helping of soft rice. Perhaps it was a quiet message to the electorate about the importance of family life.

Pressure groups join scramble

BY ALISON ROBERTS AND SIMON TAIT

FIVE pressure groups published their own manifestos yesterday in an attempt to influence politicians and mark out territory in a new government. Proposed reforms ranged from giving 16-year-olds the vote to the introduction of a housing programme creating 250,000 new homes.

The Children's Legal Centre is fighting for wide-ranging rights for the under-18s. Its manifesto proposes greater participatory rights for children in the running of schools, provision of welfare benefits and housing rights for 16-year-olds. These children should also be given the vote, according to the manifesto — a radical reform already part of Liberal Democrat policy.

The Housing Association calls for one million new homes by the year 2000. Chris Baginton, spokesman, said that the manifesto would draw political attention, but needed to attract money.

Pre-election priorities from the National Campaign for the Arts included large

LOBBIES

changes in the national curriculum to accommodate more arts subjects and a higher level of state investment in libraries. The group is staking a claim to national lottery revenue and demanding that it be spent on theatres, the belief that "The cultural life of a nation is as important as its health, defence or economy".

The campaign backed up its manifesto with a survey which showed that two thirds of candidates believed that the arts in their constituencies were facing financial difficulties. Only 20 per cent of Conservatives thought so, against 81 Labour and 64 Liberal Democrats.

Gingerbread, the association for lone parents, launched its manifesto with a representative from each party in attendance. Glenda Jackson for the Labour party spoke of her own experience as a single parent.

Mary Honeywell, chief executive, said: "This election has shown that there is much more concern about people

living in poverty. We want the government to take notice of what we think they should do for lone parents."

The proposals included increased and index-linked child benefit and better care and equal rights for children from one-parent families.

The Civil Servants' Union relaunched the campaign to restore trade union rights to staff at GCHQ in Cheltenham, pledging a large recruitment drive. Hugh Lanning, spokesman, said: "During the election campaign, parliamentary candidates in constituencies across the country will be pressed to state their position."

Other lobbying groups have compiled lists of questions for members of the public to ask their local candidates. The World Wide Fund for Nature, which published its manifesto a month ago, has produced a quiz for prospective MPs, designed to establish green credentials. Age Concern has done the same in an effort to ensure older people have the information they need to vote.

Party comes to the aid of almost all

HONOURS

THE Conservative party at Westminster is the party that nearly everybody leaves with a prize.

Of the 57 Tory MPs who left the Commons for the last time yesterday, who included some "early leavers", 27 had been ministers at some stage of their career. Twenty-two had a mark of special distinction as privy counsellors, giving them the right to be addressed as the right honourable X.

Prime ministers have another kind of patronage to dispense, too. Tory MPs are divided traditionally into those seeking to become ministers quickly and those hoping to become knights slowly. That may be something of a simplification (some become both), but a look at the 57 Tories who are leaving the Commons does offer supporting evidence.

No fewer than 33 of the departing are taking knighthoods with them. Another 11 (Sir Ian Gilmour, Sir Geoffrey Howe, Nigel Lawson, John Moore, Cecil Parkinson, Nicholas Ridley, Norman Tebbit, Margaret Thatcher, Peter Walker, John Wakeham and George Younger) are former members of the cabinet who can expect an alternative seat on the red leather benches of the House of Lords.

Nobody should ever underestimate as a force in British politics the power of patronage enjoyed by a prime minister. Including her dissolution honours list, Mrs Thatcher made knights or dames of 105 Tory MPs between 1979 and 1990. Some have suggested that Mrs Thatcher overdid the largesse. If she had created rather fewer knights, the argument goes, there would have been more looking to her for future reward and not so many in the leadership contest, feeling they had nothing to lose by her departure.

Harold Macmillan handed out peerages and knight-

hoods at the rate of about one a month on average. Between 1951 and 1964 nearly a third of Tory MPs collected some kind of honour.

Although Harold Wilson, the Labour prime minister, will be associated for ever with the famous "lavender notepaper" dissolution honours list he was something of a reformer, bestowing only five knighthoods in 1966-70. In the Heath years, there were a mere eight knighthoods for Tory MPs, a factor, some felt, in his 1975 fall.

In the second Wilson term there were only two knighthoods; one a Tory, and Jim Callaghan had little to do with the business of political honours, apart from the joke of making left-winger Judith Hart, never his favourite colleague, a dame in his resignation list. Having been overseas development minister, she called it a tribute to the Third World. Mrs Thatcher restored the tradition of political honours in all its finery, notably when she made viscounts of George Thomas (Lord Tonypan) and of Willie Whitelaw (the one childless and the other a father of four daughters).

For all his talk of the classless society, John Major has continued the Tory tradition with another 11 knighthoods since the lady's departure.



Departing: Sir Geoffrey Howe, Margaret Thatcher and Sir Ian Gilmour

even if he did make a Labour knight of Patrick Duffy, the Nato stalwart, too. As a former whip, Mr Major is aware how useful honours can be as a tool of party management.

Intuitively, he has given a knighthood to Robin Maxwell-Hyslop, the Tiverton Tory said to have refused one under Mrs Thatcher. That leaves only Norman Miskampbell, the retiring MP for Blackpool North, as that rare beast, a Tory MP known to have refused a knighthood.

Mr Major has continued the Thatcher practice of including three or four honours list. Some collect their honours for long and worthy service. In general, knighthoods are not given to ministers and certainly not to those who have become privy counsellors, a distinction particularly prized among parliamentarians, not least because the Speaker gives them precedence in debates. But a favoured few acquire both distinctions, such as Rhodes Boyson, the individualistic right-winger, and Peter Morrison, Mrs Thatcher's former PPS, both being former ministers as well.

Normally it is only senior or middle-rank ministers who become privy counsellors. Mrs Thatcher occasionally softened the blow of an expected promotion to cabinet

which did not materialise with elevation to the Privy Council. But sometimes the distinction goes to a distinguished backbencher (Sir William Clark) or to a deputy speaker (Sir Paul Dean).

Knighthoods are occasionally handed out as a consolation prize when ministers cease to be ministers without rising to cabinet level. Among those who come into that category are Sir Giles Shaw, Sir David Mitchell and Sir John Stanley.

But in most cases they are a reward for backbench sloggishness. And the longer you stay, the stronger are your chances of collecting an honour. Mrs Thatcher worked through the previous intakes and was well into the 1974 intake of Tory MPs before she left.

Only three Conservative MPs who entered the House before 1970 are still neither ministers nor knights. But apart from Mr Miskampbell, Peter Griffiths has broken Commons service and Sir Anthony Meyer is a baronet. Just 30 of those who entered the Commons between then and 1979 have yet to make it either to the front bench or to the palace. On this evidence, Tory MPs elected on April 9, if they stay in the Commons long, will have a 60 per cent chance of becoming a minister and a 72 per cent chance of becoming a frontbencher or a knight.

Libel cash for Tory candidate

A Conservative MP is to receive £15,000 libel damages from his Labour rival over allegations in a leaflet about his links with Iraq.

The two candidates, contesting the Hayes and Harlington seat in west London, settled the dispute at the doors of the High Court yesterday. John McDonnell, for Labour, agreed to pay the damages and £100,000 costs after apologising through lawyers to Terry Dicks, the Tory candidate.

The offending allegations were published in January last year just before the allied offensive against Iraq in the Gulf War and were circulated in the constituency.

Mr McDonnell said that he would have to sell his home to meet the damages and costs. Mr Dicks said: "I am delighted my name has been cleared and that justice has been done."

SNP attacks 'tartan Tories'

The Scottish National party launched its election campaign with a claim that Labour were no more than "tartan Tories" trying to please voters in the south of England and the City of London.

In contrast, the Scots could win independence within a matter of months if they voted for the nationalists. Alex Salmond, the SNP leader, said: "The SNP is fighting not just for political freedom for Scotland but for economic freedom for Scots."

Office break-ins

A Scotland Yard enquiry into breaking in at Liberal Democrat offices has found no evidence of any political dirty tricks, the police have said.

Bookies' choice

The Tories are 8-11 favourites with William Hill to win the general election. Hill offers Labour at even money, with the Liberal Democrats at 250-1; it offers 10-11 on the chances of a hung parliament.

Welsh claim

Welsh nationalists launched their campaign today with a claim that renewed Scottish demands for constitutional reform would benefit the devolution cause in Wales.

Agent quits

The ructions within the Winchester Conservative association took a new twist yesterday with a report that Pat Phillips, the party's local agent, had resigned in a huff after being rebuffed for allowing an article by John Browne, the deselected MP, to be published.

Superstar reappears — in his own good time

VOX POP by Peter Barnard

One of the privileges associated with being a member of the electorate is that every four or five years great men come before us to be judged. Yea even unto our living rooms do they come, sometimes with warning, sometimes without.

Yesterday's superstar arrived with due warning but with only a vague hint from his campaign managers as to the precise hour. Therefore it was necessary for those who wished to get a good seat to be spick and span by 6.30am, although we could be fairly sure the star would not precede the warm-up acts. We were right. Sir Robin Day appeared on BBC Breakfast News at just after 8.30. Until then, we had to be content with bit part players, much like sitting in the Hammersmith Odeon listening to one-chord merchants while waiting for the Rolling Stones to get out of bed.

Not that "Fisherman Jack" and

"Gardener Jack" were devoid of interest. These two turned out to be one, namely Dr Jack Cunningham. Labour's campaign boss, the man who is said to have attended a chess school only in order to shout ridicule through the windows.

We saw Jack in fishing gear and Jack in gardening gear, while the voice-over told us that these shots were part of Labour's public relations campaign. This is called having a bit of videotape while we wait for Sir Robin and, yes, we know it is a public relations stunt but we are showing it anyway.

Once that was over, we poured some more tea, ready to toast Sir Robin. We got John Prescott. Labour's transport spokesman, among others, in an item about MPs clearing out their rooms at the Commons. Videotape of bookshelf, pair of hands clearing out same.

Cut to Mr Prescott, who is asked if he expects to be back: "No, I'm going over to Marsham Street as secretary of state." Hope equals expectation minus experience. By the same token, perhaps Dr Cunningham is angling, so to speak, for Ag and Fish.

At last we got Sir Robin. Alas, 'twas only a trail. Just before eight, he appeared to announce himself as "your humble servant" and to say that he would be with us at 8.30 or so, with a panel of elder statesmen "combining experience and elegance, wit and wisdom". I leave you to decide whether this is over-selling Norman Tebbit, Lord (formerly Woy) Jenkins and Denis Healey, not to mention which epithet applies to whom. One clue: The Wit of Norman Tebbit is but a slim volume. This panel is to gather on Breakfast News every Monday.

Wednesday and Friday throughout the campaign. Very good of them, but they might as well be Kermit the Frog. Edd the Duck and Fireman Sam for all that the average viewer cares. Sir Robin is the main attraction.

He is as he ever was: bow-tied, grumpy, twinkly, incisive. "Answer my question if you'd be so good." Mr Healey, one-time saviour of dead sheep, was his sole equal: "You weren't listening, were you Robin? I said exactly the opposite."

In which phrase Mr Healey summarised the entire election campaign, certainly the television one. "Balance" is the word: three weeks of one politician saying one thing followed by another saying exactly the opposite. In this context, Sir Robin Day and even Gardener Jack are welcome relief to the tough potato, whose only dictum can be: lie back and enjoy it.

CAMPAIGN QUOTES OF THE DAY

Very often in opposition people who have no experience of government have a dominant role in making policy and when they get into office they find that the policies simply do not work. The Tories found that with the poll tax.

Denis Healey on BBC Breakfast News

Unless Scots achieve independence at this election, our steel industry will be destroyed, the Highlands turned into the world's nuclear laundry, and we will have no say in the vital European decisions which will affect our future.

Margaret Ewing, SNP parliamentary leader, at the SNP campaign launch in Edinburgh

The first aim of the Liberal Democrat manifesto is clear — to break free from the past and to change Britain for good. Paddy Ashdown at the launch of the Liberal Democrat campaign

There will be no hole in my life. It is already full up with so many other things.

Margaret Thatcher on her way to the Commons for the last time

Anything Labour says about reducing people's taxes should be taken with a lorry-load of Siberian salt.

Chris Patten

It is the economics of Disneyland and when it comes to taxes, they're now the high-taxing party.

Kenneth Baker on the Liberal Democrat manifesto

We have taken a lot of money on Labour today... Bookmakers City Index on making Labour favourite for the first time in the election campaign

Every employee earning under £22,000 will gain from my new budget.

John Smith

A vote for Sinn Fein is a vote for peace.

Gerry Adams

Ashdown unveils charter for change

Party warns of a nation left behind

THE party manifesto "does not promise good times around the corner", according to its preamble. "If you do not want Britain to stay the same then you probably won't like this manifesto," it asserts.

"Britain has a clear choice at this election. We stay much as we are, in the same old muddle, with difficult decisions postponed. Our failure to adjust to the real world will then become ever more serious. We will lag further behind in creating and sharing wealth. More and more people will lose their jobs and homes. Our environment will go on deteriorating. Our public services, already second rate, will become even worse.

"We shall fail to be the best out of the European Community, because our leaders continue to be afraid to tell us that shared success in the community means sharing sovereignty too. Our system of politics will continue to foster confrontation and short-term thinking, and exclude ordinary citizens from the business of government.

"The Liberal manifesto denounces, above all, Britain's voting system. Forty years of failure are the result not only of misjudged policies from both Conservative and Labour governments. Even more crucially, they are the product of an outdated political system which has consistently sacrificed the long term to the short term and abandoned principles for expediency."

On the economy, the Liberal Democrats say: "We know the free market is the best guarantee of responsiveness to choice and change. But we believe the market should be our servant not our master. So we see the role of government as crucial in making the market work properly, by creating the conditions for success, promoting competition, breaking up monopolies and spreading information. And government has to be ready to make the investments which private enterprise will not, whether in transport, education or public works." The Liberal Democrats are "uncompromisingly internationalist. We have long been committed Europeans." The manifesto proposes key measures which the Liberal party

MANIFESTO PLEDGE

believes "must be taken straight away to break the cycle of Britain's decline".

□ "British political institutions need thoroughgoing reform, stable and representative government, elected parliaments in Scotland and Wales, decentralisation of power to the English regions and to local government, freedom of information and a Bill of Rights. We will introduce fair voting; votes by proportional representation for Parliamentary elections."

□ "The economy needs new impetus not a tax cut. We will immediately introduce an emergency programme of investment in the infrastructure and in public works in order to get companies and people back to work, thus reducing unemployment by 600,000 over the next two years."

□ "Lower inflation and a stable climate for industry to plan and prosper will lead to long term prosperity. We will give the Bank of England long term responsibility for monetary policy, with a requirement to promote price stability. We will put the pound into the narrow band of the European Exchange Mechanism."

□ "Environmental priorities must be built into all economic decision making, ensuring that economic success goes hand in hand with environmental responsibility."

□ "The skills and capabilities of the British people must be adequate to meet the challenges of the new century. We will increase investment in education by £2 billion, funding this by an increase of 1p on income tax."

□ "Older people deserve greater security. We will protect private pensions, and increase the basic state pension, making it payable as of right without means testing."

□ "Britain's future must be safeguarded by active membership of a European Community which is united and democratic and in which decisions are taken as closely to the people as possible. We will take decisive steps towards the economic and monetary union of a democratic Europe."



Eye to eye: Paddy Ashdown (right) and Des Wilson, Lib Dem campaign director, conferring at the manifesto launch yesterday

Investment 'will create 600,000 jobs'

THE Liberal Democrat manifesto promises a 600,000 cut in unemployment over two years through an emergency programme of investment to end the recession.

The manifesto says the new impetus the economy needs will only be achieved through new investment. "But Liberal Democrats also recognise Britain's long term needs. We are committed to the free market, to free trade and to the creation of a competitive and enterprising economy. We do not believe it is government's job to run business — people do that much better."

"Our long term aim is to shift the burden of taxation away from the things the country needs more of — income, savings and value added — and on to the things we want less of, such as pollution and resource depletion."

Liberal Democrats will introduce an emergency programme of investment to end the slump. A major programme of public capital investment will be funded by reversing the Conservatives' tax cut together with a prudent increase in borrowing.

ECONOMY

This, combined with a freeze in investment rates and new investment in education to increase the nation's skills, will kick-start recovery and create jobs.

□ The party will reduce unemployment by at least 600,000 over two years through its emergency investment programme. Spending will be increased on public transport, housing, hospitals and schools, on energy efficiency and conservation projects and on education and training.

□ Support will be provided for transport infrastructure, including a dedicated high-speed rail link from the Channel tunnel to connect with the major routes to the north and west, and the extension of electrification throughout the country. The expansion of airports outside the south-east will be encouraged.

□ Business rates will be frozen. □ A training incentive will be created for firms through the introduction of a levy equal to 2 per cent of payroll, from

which they would deduct their expenditure on training. The Liberal Democrats say: "We will require employers to release their employees aged under 19 for a minimum of two days a week further education and/or training for nationally recognised qualifications."

□ On investment in local economies, the party says: "We will set up and fund new regional development and local enterprise agencies."

□ Investment in research will see an immediate increase in the government's science budget to 0.35 per cent of GDP. A climate of enterprise and competition is vital if British industry and products are to compete effectively in overseas markets."

The Liberal Democrats would: □ Stimulate competition, taking tough action against monopolies, mergers and financial raids. The Monopolies and Mergers Commission will be combined with the Office of Fair Trading and made independent of government. A Restrictive Practices Act will be intro-

duced to penalise anti-competitive behaviour and end price-fixing by cartels.

□ Break up the monopoly providers of services such as British Telecom and British Gas and permit access by private operators to the British Rail track network. The coal industry will be liberalised by transferring ownership of coal reserves to the Crown and issuing licences to operate the pits.

□ Promote consumer rights through greater powers for watchdogs and trading standards officers.

□ Encourage decentralised wage bargaining through plans to spread employee ownership.

The Liberal Democrats say: "Government needs to provide an immediate impetus to get the economy moving. But long-term private investment in the production of high-quality tradable goods and services is essential for long-term success."

"This will only be possible if we encourage a climate of investment, enterprise and partnership."

The party would:

□ Reform taxation to increase investment.

□ Encourage a long term approach to private investment, reversing the burden of proof for acquisitions away from the predator and requiring companies to ballot their shareholders on bid plans.

□ Encourage small businesses and the self-employed. This will include relieving the administrative burden on small businesses, legislating to make interest payable on overdue debt.

□ Encourage flexibility in working patterns, including part-time and flexi-time work.

□ Legislate to establish the right of employee share ownership in his company.

To create long-term prosperity, an operationally independent Bank of England will be established, sterling will be moved to the narrow band of the European Exchange Rate Mechanism, and a savings target set for the nation. A draft budget will be published four months before the final version to promote discussion of policy.

Polluters will have to pay a high price

BRITAIN will become a leader and not a laggard in facing the environmental challenge with penalties for the polluters and rewards for the conservers, according to a pledge in the Liberal Democrats manifesto.

Taxation would also be shifted from the things people want more of, such as income and savings, to those people want less of such as pollution and depletion of resources. The main aim is to build a society which does not create

ENVIRONMENT

wealth at the expense of the environment.

Protecting Britain's heritage would be achieved with countryside protection policies for national parks, heritage coasts, areas of outstanding natural beauty and sites of special scientific interest. More national parks would be created.

Agreements to manage the countryside would be encouraged between landowners and local authorities. Planning laws would be altered to protect the natural environment. In the cities, public transport would be improved and pedestrian and cycling schemes promoted to reduce traffic congestion.

The party would promote better management of waste with grants for recycling schemes and regulations on the use of packaging materials.

An animal protection commission would enforce and recommend changes in the law to improve standards of animal protection. Unacceptable forms of factory farming and battery cages would be phased out and a dog registration scheme would be introduced, while experiments on the animals would be restricted. Hunting with hounds, while opposed, is considered a matter for individual MPs.

The party promises a 30 per cent cut in carbon dioxide emissions by 2005 and a ban on CFCs and halons by 1994. Factories and power stations would have licences setting a ceiling on emission of pollutants.

The party would support a community wide energy tax related to the levels of carbon dioxide emitted, and invest in energy conservation and efficiency setting standards for all homes offices and factories. Nuclear power stations would be phased out.

Education system could be world class by year 2000

A WORLD class education system would be established in Britain by the year 2000 under proposals aimed at raising educational standards and putting education at the heart of the community.

The first of these goals would be achieved by creating a single department of education and training. A national qualifications council would be set up to co-ordinate a single system of academic and vocational courses for 14 to 19-year-olds, and a new higher education standards council.

A fully independent education and training inspectorate would report on the entire range of public and private provision from pre-school education to universities. Authorities would be re-

SKILLS & PEOPLE

quired to guarantee a suitable place, with proper support, for every child in education and training up to the age of 19. The assisted places scheme for independent schools would be phased out without affecting those already in it and the money saved would be turned over to state schools.

Two years pre-school education would be guaranteed for every child with a choice of provision. Every pupil would get a national record of achievement to document their progress, replacing the current standard assessment tasks. Class sizes would be reduced to a maximum of 30.

A simpler, more flexible national curriculum would develop out of a modular

credit-based course and examination structure for 14 to 19-year-olds, who would all have personal tutors and careers advice. All 16 to 19-year-olds in work would be given the equivalent of two days a week education or training.

Every local education authority would run a special education-needs service with its own budget. Every citizen would be entitled to training or education at a time of their choice during their adult lives.

The number of students in higher education would be increased to two million by the year 2000. Courses would be made more flexible with the availability of a diploma after the equivalent of two years and the option of a further year or two leading to

a degree. Guarantees on high-quality health care would be ensured by annual real increases in health service funding with increased spending in priority areas, including health promotion and the removal of charges for dental and eye checks.

Decent affordable housing in both the private and public sectors would be encouraged by the introduction of housing cost relief, weighted towards those most in need and available to house buyers and renters. This would replace mortgage tax relief for future home buyers.

House building and renovation would be boosted by relaxing controls on local authority capital receipts, especially for new council buildings.

Tenants' rights would be improved in the public and private sectors. Income support would be paid to claimants in advance to try to reduce homelessness.

Crime statistics would be reduced by creating safer communities with the help of local authorities, putting more police officers on the beat and reforming the criminal justice system to increase public confidence. Conditions inside prisons would be radically reformed.

Changes in the tax and social security system would include immediate improvements in child benefit, income support and the abolition of the minimum poll tax level. State pensions would be increased and a comprehensive disability income scheme introduced.

Ashdown pledges PR, Lords reform and bill of rights

THE central slogan of the Liberal Democrat manifesto commitments on the nation's constitution is "citizenship, not subjecthood". Proportional representation, a fixed four-year parliamentary term and reform of the Lords are promised.

Other pledges include home rule for Scotland and Wales, local government reforms, a bill of rights and a written constitution.

The first-past-the-post system is attacked as unfair, unstable and divisive. Proportional representation (PR), or fair voting as it is described in the document, would remove the present system and make government by a minority of elected members an impossibility. PR would be introduced at local, national and European levels. The manifesto proposes a single transferable vote, by which electors cast their votes in multi-member constituencies based on natural communities.

Parliaments would be fixed at four years with a pre-selected date for the next election except in the event of an explicit vote of no confidence in the government.

The House of Lords would be retained, but as an elected senate in the main with the power to delay legislation other than money bills for up to two years.

Commons select committees would have greater powers and backbench and opposition members would receive increased financial and civil service support. The quality of legislation would be improved by establishing pre-legislative committees and better scrutiny of delegated legislation. Debates would be improved by allocating time for business more fairly, timetabling committee sessions of bills and ending Parliament's late-night sittings.

As part of its provisions for "Bringing power to the

CONSTITUTION

People" the manifesto pledges the introduction of home rule for Scotland and Wales with the immediate creation of a Scottish parliament and Welsh senedd.

Local government would get greater independence and regional governments would be set up throughout England with a strategic authority for London. Powers for economic development, housing, health, social services, roads, planning and public transport would be decentralised to those bodies.

Strengthening local government would include the abolition of the poll tax, cancellation of the incoming council tax and the introduction of a local income tax collected by the Inland Revenue. The uniform business rate would be replaced with site value rating based on land values (with exemption for agricultural land and domestic properties).

Local government will be reformed with the main local councils reshaped into a unitary system based on natural communities and the wishes of local people. The authorities will have greater responsibilities over education, health and planning. Authorities will be given a "general power of competence" that will allow them to carry out any local action that does not duplicate the work of other public bodies or break the law.

The formation of a full network of community, parish, town or neighbourhood councils will ensure that local government is brought nearer to the people. All tiers of regional and local government will publish a "Charter of Services" giving citizens clear rights to standards of service, and remedies if they are not met.

Under the heading of ensuring citizens' rights and op-

portunities, the document pledges the introduction of a freedom of information Act placing responsibility on government and other authorities to justify secrecy. Trade union bans such as the one at GCHQ would be reversed and legislation would be introduced to give individuals access to their personal files held by public or private bodies.

A bill of rights would be introduced as the end of a process beginning with the immediate incorporation of the European convention on human rights into United Kingdom law. A commission would help people to bring proceedings under the bill and recommend changes to existing law.

The bill, when introduced, will guarantee effective protection against discrimination on the grounds of gender, race, age, disability, religion or sexual orientation.

Women will get a better deal in the Commons under manifesto proposals for PR and improved parliamentary conditions. Government appointments will be geared to feature a fair representation of women on public bodies.

A justice ministry will be established to separate responsibility for civil liberties and justice from that for order and security. Judges will be appointed by a judicial services commission.

A written constitution, based on the proposed bill of rights, will be adopted and enforced by a supreme court.

On Northern Ireland, the manifesto says that Unionist and nationalist traditions are valid and legitimate. The Anglo-Irish agreement would be maintained until cross-party talks produced an improved agreement to replace it. The "Diplock courts" would be reformed so that three judges would preside over non-jury trials.

European federalism sought as the way forward

A FULLY integrated Europe with shared sovereignty and pooled power is essential if the Liberal Democrats are to achieve their other goals.

Claiming the ground as the most pro-European of the three main parties, their manifesto demands economic and monetary union and a single currency. They maintain that such an arrangement will promote their aims for the economy, the environment and for national security. They believe they can create a "citizens' Europe in which power lies as close to the citizen as possible."

The party promises to cancel the opt-out clauses negotiated at Maastricht, which are seen as leaving Britain trailing far behind the rest of Europe. As a "full and enthusiastic member" of Europe they would use Britain's six-month tenure of the presidency of the EC's Council of Ministers to tackle a series of tasks — "building a prosperous and integrated economy;

EUROPE

correcting the democratic deficit, making Europe work for its citizens, not its institutions; widening the community's membership; and helping to create a peaceful and stable world order."

The manifesto outlines a new Europe as a federal community. "For us, federalism means decentralisation: passing powers down more than passing them up." Setting up regional parliaments for Scotland, England and Wales would go hand in hand with such a practice.

Priorities include the creation of an independent European central bank and a single currency, renouncing Britain's opt-out of the social charter and the setting up of minimum standards of health and safety and employee rights, while leaving individual governments to decide how to meet them. There would also be reform of the common agricultural pol-

icy "from inefficient price support mechanism to market prices and direct support for farmers' incomes".

At present the Lib-Dems believe the EC structure gives too much weight to the Council of Ministers at the expense of both the European parliament and, to them, more importantly, the individual. "Further moves to European union, and enlargement, must depend on the institutions of the EC becoming truly democratic." To that end they propose that there is a clear definition of the rights of the European citizen.

They also wish to see the introduction of proportional representation for the 1994 British elections to the European parliament. "The British citizen must no longer be denied the fair voting systems enjoyed by the citizens of every other European country."

They also wish to invest in the European parliament the power to confirm or deny the council's nominee as presi-

dent of the commission, and exercise the same power over the choice of commissioners.

When passing law, the council should meet in public and the party would argue to extend majority voting in the council to cover all areas of policy other than constitutional and crucial security matters. Scrutiny of ministers' actions in Europe would be provided by a new European committee of the House of Commons, with a similar role for the House of Lords as reformed by the Lib-Dems.

New member countries would be encouraged and welcomed: firstly members of the European Free Trade Association and then, when ready, the new democracies of Central and Eastern Europe.

The manifesto outlines how the Gulf war illustrated the need for stronger and more effective world institutions capable of upholding international law. "Britain must ensure that the community plays a pivotal role in the

construction of a new security order in Europe following the democratisation of Eastern and Central Europe."

A common approach to defence procurement with the gradual integration of the member nations' armed forces under joint military command would be the aim, with the cost of collective security shared more equally. Reform in Eastern and Central Europe would be promoted by generous economic assistance, and would provide the Commonwealth of Independent States with military resources to shift food and supplies and the technical assistance to dismantle nuclear weapons.

A minimum independent nuclear deterrent would be retained, but they believe the increase of firepower represented by Trident to be "unnecessary and unhelpful", and would restrict the warheads to no more than that currently deployed on the Polaris system.

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Poland's man of the people rejects West's economic cures



Walesa: spurns label of authoritarianism

WESTERN policy towards Central and Eastern Europe is on the wrong track, according to President Walesa of Poland. He told *The Times* that the West prescribed rigid and unrealistic programmes for the broken economies of the East.

Mr Walesa also attacked the West for pigeon-holing him and President Yeltsin of Russia as authoritarian politicians. His sensitivity to criticism is partly due to the difficult choices facing Poland and the rest of the old Soviet bloc. In Poland, there is a clear split between those politicians who want to push hard with a Thatcher-style plan for a fully-fledged market, and those (including Jan Olszewski, the prime minister) who want a "Christian social market economy", with protection for domestic manufacturers and farmers.

President Walesa, in an interview with *Roger Boyes* in Warsaw, accuses the West of an unrealistic view of the route from communism to a market economy.

The first course, favoured by the International Monetary Fund and other Western lenders, would, it seems, require a form of benign authoritarian leadership. The second, softer option carries the risk of hyperinflation as money is pumped into the economy. "We are not doing a U-turn," Mr Walesa said at the Belvedere palace, his official residence. "But neither do we want all sorts of trash flowing into our country from the West. We want to produce things ourselves. If the West understands this as discarding market reform, then they are right." The president,

who at first supported shock-therapy reforms, now appears more reconciled to the government programme.

The government wants to boost exports and investment, but also release more money into the economy to encourage small and medium-sized business. Mr Walesa said: "In the West too many things are being made and too few are being bought. In the post-communist societies, production must not be limited but rather expanded."

The IMF had got it wrong. If Poland seemed to be in a state of drift it was "because the programme suggested by

the West does not meet the Polish solutions and needs. It's simply incorrect."

Mr Walesa argued that the West should be more imaginative in its approach to the post-communist societies. For example, both he and Mr Yeltsin were frequently called authoritarian by Western commentators. That, said Mr Walesa, was a fundamental misunderstanding. "Both Yeltsin and myself have to say tough words to our executives," he admitted. But in a society in flux there was also a confusion of roles. "You in England have inherited a system but we're in the course of building ours. A builder is sometimes a planner, and sometimes somebody who puts the actual bricks into place." It was thus premature to talk about the traditional division of governing and legislative powers in the East.

Mr Walesa's priority is to create a sentiment for reform among ordinary people. He has called for a referendum on presidential powers and has been making a whirlwind tour of Polish newspaper offices to ensure that journalists are on his side. The aim is to jump over the heads of parliament — the government is shaky and, six months after the elections, has yet to present a budget — and to mobilise the Poles.

Mr Walesa believes that the political class is out of touch with the feelings of ordinary citizens. Mr Walesa emphasised: "This is not demagoguery or populism. But dangerous spots are emerging. There is a dissonance between the politicians, who are trying to make grand politics, and the grass roots."

classic "unifier" of mature Western democracy. Instead he has to serve as a bridge between ordinary people and the rather narrow political class. That meant throwing democratic protocol overboard. "During a revolution we have to look only at the problems to be solved, and for the best solutions."

Mr Walesa's popularity, according to some surveys, has even fallen below that of General Jaruzelski, the architect of martial law. And the party politicians are now suspicious of Mr Walesa. "I'm exposed to the anger of all those who want things to stay as they are, in a state of stagnation," he said, a trifle sadly. "But it's necessary — I have to do even more than my job assumes and that does not make me new friends. That's not the point: the point is not new friends, but new solutions."



Olszewski government has not set a budget

Yeltsin aide sounds civil war warning

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

ONE of President Yeltsin's most trusted advisers, Sergei Shakhrai, a deputy prime minister, gave a warning yesterday that hardliners' plans to reconvene the former Soviet parliament near Moscow today offered the "classic scenario" for civil war. He was speaking shortly after organisers of the outlawed congress had insisted that they were proceeding, despite the Russian Federation's ban, and promised buses to take reporters to the secret venue.

Mr Shakhrai told a press conference in Moscow that the present balance of forces across Russia was such "that a springboard exists for one or other political force to return to power". Around half of all local authorities across Russia, he said, had the same leaders as before the August coup, all of whom would interpret a success for hardliners in Moscow as a signal that their cause could still be won. Any attempt to

form "parallel organs of power", he said, was fraught with great danger. "Heaven forbid this congress becomes the catalyst for civil war."

Arkadi Murashev, the head of the Moscow police, said several thousand Interior Ministry troops would be stationed in the centre of Moscow as "reserves on whom the regular police could call for help in extreme necessity". The Kremlin would be cordoned off by police from early morning. The demonstration is set for 5pm.

Mr Shakhrai's warning was echoed by Yelena Bonner, widow of the human rights campaigner, Andrei Sakharov. Speaking on Moscow radio yesterday morning, she appealed to Russians not to attend today's legal evening demonstration, called to support the illegal congress. The organisers, she said, would interpret a big turnout as evidence that they could succeed.

Alongside these warnings, which crowned more than a week of near-panic by the authorities, evidence mounted that the congress was already running into the sand. Sazhi Umalatova, the spokeswoman for the organisers, admitted at a chaotic press conference that only 100 — of a possible 2,250 — former Soviet deputies had so far registered for the congress. Earlier, the group had boasted of more than 1,400 showing an interest.

The press conference, held in the foyer of the central Moscow hotel, was not prevented by police, but not assisted either. There were no microphones and no chairs. Attempts to rent a hall had failed. Unconfirmed reports said that would-be delegates were to be accommodated at a sanatorium at Klyazma, outside Moscow, but that the director had refused to give them a meeting hall.

Ms Umalatova said, with a measure of desperation, that the congress would proceed, "even if it had to be held in the streets". The provisional agenda included "the situation in the country and measures to solve the crisis" and organisational questions. Backtracking considerably from a statement she made a week ago about "restoring legality in the country", she said there would be no attempt to oust the government or form "alternative structures". If there was no quorum, she said, the group could form the nucleus of a new party to "start the fight to gain power legally".

With her at yesterday's press conference were General Albert Makashov, former commander of the Volga military region, who was retired after the August coup, and Yuri Golik, head of ex-President Gorbachev's law and order committee.

In a separate development, it was learnt that finance ministers of the European Community have imposed strict repayment conditions on an £875 million loan split among the former Soviet republics, with the sanction of suing the republics to get the money back not ruled out.

Russia, which according to European Commission estimates may face a financing gap of more than £18 billion by next year, had been pressing for "sovereign immunity" in the event of not being able to repay the nearly £350 million it will receive.

Peter Stothard, page 14



Secret orders: Sazhi Umalatova, chairman of the committee organising the clandestine meeting of the banned "congress of Soviet deputies", answering journalists' questions at a Moscow hotel. She claimed that 1,470 former Soviet deputies wanted to take part

Pressure grows for peace in Karabakh

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR AND ROBERT SEELY IN KIEV

A DAY after Iran announced that it had brokered a draft ceasefire in Nagorno-Karabakh, Armenian and Azerbaijani leaders said yesterday they would meet in Kiev on Thursday for talks on the dispute.

President Ter-Petrosyan of Armenia said he had agreed to meet President Mamedov, the new Azerbaijani leader, on the eve of a summit of all 11 leaders of the Commonwealth of Independent States.



Ali Akbar Velayati, the Iranian foreign minister, announced on Sunday that agreement had been reached in Tehran for a ceasefire, an exchange of prisoners of war and the lifting of economic blockades. He said there was a good chance for a lasting ceasefire and honourable peace if the three agreements were implemented simultaneously.

Armenian fighters shelled more than 20 Azerbaijani villages on Sunday night, however, as the battle for control of the enclave showed no signs of abating. The Azerbaijani city of Agdam was hit, as were villages in the central, south-west and northern regions. An Azerbaijani spokesman said communications with the Azerbaijani city of Shusha were cut, and Armenian armoured vehicles blocked the road yesterday morning.

Cyrus Vance, the United Nations special envoy, arrives in the disputed enclave today after a stop-over in Geneva. Britain and other European countries, impressed by his work as a mediator in Yugoslavia, are giving strong backing to his attempt to stop the conflict spreading, but are eager that it should dovetail with the mediation efforts of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe. The conflict will be a main issue at the opening of the full

CSCE follow-up conference in Helsinki next week. Armenia and Azerbaijan are members of the 48-nation conference. Western European nations are unlikely to sanction any CSCE peace-keeping force, but are eager to send monitors who can report ceasefire violations. Britain has pulled back from its earlier support for mediation by the Russians and for a strong CIS presence.

Meanwhile, Moldova's ultimatum to Russian rebels within the republic to disarm themselves and return guns stolen from commonwealth military bases ends today. President Kravchuk of Ukraine is expected to issue a decree today ordering the dismantling of all unofficial Cossack groups bound for Moldova.

Yesterday, the former commander of commonwealth forces in Moldova was kidnapped by Russian extremists from the self-proclaimed republic of Transdniestria, according to reports received by military officials. The 14th Army is the subject of a tug-of-war between Moldova, Transdniestria and Ukraine.

Vuk Draskovic, the leader of Serbia's largest opposition party, told a cheering rally last week that Crown Prince Alexander was soon to return to the land of his forefathers and would duly be crowned. Alexander Karadjordjevic, a London insurance broker who was born in a suite in Claridges in 1947, has appointed a crown council to advise him on how best to proceed, but its competence has been thrown into doubt. As anti-government

students blocked one of Belgrade's main streets last week, he sent a message of support saying "You are not alone." When nobody else joined the protest it collapsed.

Yugoslavia's communists



Tomislav: has not yet declared an interest

declared the country a republic in 1947, but a strong royalist vein still runs deep in Serbia, the homeland of the Karadjordjevics. Belgrade's ruling socialists are no closet monarchists but nor are they politically inept.



Alexander: born in a suite at Claridges

After the tumultuous reception given to Alexander when he visited Serbia last October, the government has rolled out the red carpet for his uncle, Prince Tomislav. Although, unlike his nephew, he has not yet said that he is in the running for the throne, he was recently given the seal of approval by Vojislav Seselj, leader of one of Serbia's most extreme but influential nationalist parties. Also unlike his nephew, Prince Tomislav, a former apple farmer in England, speaks Serbo-Croat.

The Karadjordjevic family rift has opened all sorts of speculation about the future. Mihajlo Mladenovic, a monarchist politician, suggested that Serbs might elect their king after an open competition. If the Serbian royals ever go on the hustings they may well be joined

Greece denies atrocities on frontier with Albania

FROM JAMES PETTIFER IN KORCE, ALBANIA AND CHRIS ELIOU IN ATHENS

THE political atmosphere in the Albanian border city of Korce is dominated by a rapid deterioration in relations with Greece after allegations of frontier atrocities and human rights violations.

Two Albanians were killed on Sunday in separate clashes between would-be Albanian refugees and Greek patrols on two parts of the border. The defence ministry in Athens said one man died after a warning shot ricocheted, and a second was fatally wounded when he tried to grab the weapon of a Greek policeman.

Greece argues that claims of atrocities are part of propaganda generated by the campaign for this coming weekend's multi-party general elections in Albania. But passions were aroused in Korce by the earlier violent border deaths of two local men, Elmas Bushi and Pellumb Lala. Both were returning home after working in Greece. The post mortem at Korce hospital by Dr Erko Trebilka, the chief pathologist, appeared to confirm Albanian government allegations that the men died from bayonet or knife wounds.

In Tirana, Dr Emil Azdriane, an internationally



respected surgeon, confirmed that a number of seriously injured Albanian migrant workers returning from Greece had been treated in his hospital. He expressed particular concern over the case of Guri Jemin, from Curush, treated for serious burns after Greek soldiers were alleged to have poured a chemical over his upper body and ignited it.

Emmanuel Kalamidas, the Greek foreign ministry spokesman, said that while there had been several skirmishes involving Greek patrols and would-be Albanian refugees, the ministry had no information about any bayoneting or infliction of burns on refugees.

Greek sources said that a man who was alleged to have

been burnt by a chemical substance was in fact suffering from "purulent eczema". The incident had been "staged" by the Albanian secret police.

Dr Sali Berisha, the main Albanian opposition leader, told a rally in Korce last week that if his Democratic party won the elections on Sunday, "Albania will become part of Europe, and those doors will no longer be closed to Albanians". If Dr Berisha achieves victory, relations with Greece are likely to improve.

The political party of the 200,000 strong Greek minority in Albania, Omolonia, has been banned from the election. Although "Tirana" had originally banned Omolonia, following pressure from the European Community, the Albanians agreed to allow ethnic Greeks to field candidates under the banner of the "United Human Rights party". Omolonia won five seats in Albania's first multiparty polls last March, indirectly confirming the Greek contention of the size of the Greek minority population in Albania.

James Pettifer will present *Eurofile* on Albania on BBC Radio 4 on Saturday.

Rabbi calls on voters to halt rise of Le Pen

FROM REUTERS IN PARIS

FRANCE's chief rabbi yesterday urged voters to stop the advance of Jean-Marie Le Pen in the regional elections on Sunday, describing the extreme right-wing leader as a threat to the nation.

"We must ring the alarm bell. It is our duty," Rabbi Joseph Sitruk told a French Jewish radio station, in a break with the tradition of staying out of politics. "Le Pen's ideology is dangerous for the nation and one must be extremely vigilant. I would like the collective consciousness to wake up," he said.

M Le Pen's National Front, which has tough anti-immigration and law-and-order policies, is forecast to win some 15 per cent of the vote. He plans to run in a presidential election scheduled for 1995. His critics call him a racist, and several of his rallies in the current election campaign have been marked by violent protests.

Mgr Albert Decourtray, the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Lyons, France's second city, last night appealed to voters not to abstain. He said the country "was heading into an adventure which could lead to the rise of some new Hitler".

Neumea: Alcohol and high unemployment among young New Caledonians have been largely blamed for a weekend of violence in which 200 Melanesian youths looted shops and set fire to a shopping centre in Neumea, the capital.

The authorities of the French territory have blamed the riot on alcohol abuse, with police saying that every weekend they find themselves confronted with acts of violence when bars and night clubs close. Often they are called to halt fights and accompany youths back to their homes in a semi-comatose condition because of excess drinking or smoking of marijuana.

To overcome this problem, Jacques Lafleur, the president of New Caledonia's South Province, suggested shutting all establishments which served alcohol to youths. However, he denied that social problems could lie behind the violence. (AFP)

Hope ebbs for finding new quake survivors

ERZINCAN: Rescue teams have little hope of finding more survivors from the powerful earthquake which hit this eastern Turkish town last Friday. Officials said 376 bodies had been recovered since the quake, measuring 6.8 on the Richter scale, and 688 people had been injured.

"Under these conditions there is little hope of survival after three days," said Ramil Eren, the Turkish-born director of a Swiss disaster relief team. Freezing temperatures in Erzincan had reduced the possibility that people trapped under collapsed buildings might survive for up to five days.

"There is still hope (of finding survivors) although it is lessening every day. We must be quick," a rescue worker from the British-based International Rescue Corps said. A new tremor measuring 6.0 shook Erzincan again on Sunday and damaged buildings in the region. (Reuters)

Iran 'threat'

BOON: Germany's secret service believes Iran has acquired two nuclear warheads from Kazakhstan, according to *Stern* magazine. The report was promptly denied by the Russian defence ministry, and Kazakhstan described it as a "silly rumour".

Taboo broken

Rome: Bettino Craxi, the Italian Socialist leader, has broken a political taboo going back to the fall of fascism by making an election issue of the fact that Italian women are having fewer children than others in Europe.

Israeli denial

Jerusalem: Yitzhak Shamir denied that Israel had violated America's trust by transferring US weapons technology to China and other Third World countries, dismissing such reports as "plots against the Jewish state".

Live audience

Paris: A knife-wielding intruder, who threatened to slit his throat, burst into a live programme on French television and delivered a tirade against Lionel Jospin, the education minister, and his university reforms. (Reuters)

Galaxy of sports stars back returns



his hit back at anime

South Africa's day of destiny

De Klerk gambles on white common sense

FROM GAVIN BELL IN JOHANNESBURG

WHITE voters in South Africa are today determining their country's fate in a referendum asking them to endorse or reject President de Klerk's reform process. The issue is deceptively simple: are whites prepared to relinquish their hold on power and grant full political rights to a black majority that outnumber them five to one?

Mr de Klerk is confident he has convinced voters that their only option is power-sharing, linked to constitutional safeguards for minorities. Andries Treurnicht, the right-wing Conservative party leader, is equally optimistic that his vision of partition

into race-based states will carry the day.

The truth is that neither man can anticipate victory with any degree of certainty. Independent analysts predict a slender majority in favour of reform, but add that floating votes in English-speaking constituencies could swing the result either way.

Stoffel van der Merwe, the National party secretary-general, said he believed wavering voters were returning to the government. "Common sense will win the day," he said.

Koos van der Merwe, of the Conservative party, said defections from the government

were holding steady. He claimed that canvasses had assured his party of 52 per cent of the vote.

But James Selfe, communications director of the liberal Democratic party, is not so sure. "There is no reliable national canvassing of voters on which firm predictions may be based," he said.

More than three million whites are eligible to vote in 15 regions and the turnout is regarded as critical. The general assumption is that a high poll would favour the National party.

The important battlegrounds are Pretoria and Johannesburg, which together account for a third of the white electorate. All three parties expect Pretoria to vote "no", and Johannesburg to vote "yes", but the size of the majorities or any swing could determine the overall result.

Party leaders concluded their campaigns with open letters in a Johannesburg newspaper yesterday. Describing the referendum as a "date with destiny", Mr de Klerk said: "Two short years of reform have shown that South Africans are able to live and work together for the common good... that it is possible to negotiate a constitution that is fair to all and acceptable to the vast majority... that is our highway of hope. Let us take it."

Dr Treurnicht, dubbed "Dr No" for his uncompromising opposition to the reform process, said: "A rushed yes vote is a blank cheque for a government you know you can't trust. Don't waste your last chance. There is no going back from ANC rule. Vote 'no' and keep your options open."

Zach de Beer, of the Democratic party, said: "What is at stake is whether we South Africans are going to work together in peace, or whether we are going to fight each other in racial conflict. You can save your country by voting 'yes', or destroy it by voting 'no'."

The urgent need for a political settlement was underlined on the eve of the poll by continuing violence in black townships. At least 40 people were killed in clashes between supporters of the African National Congress and the Inkatha Freedom party at the weekend, bringing the death toll to more than 270 since Mr de Klerk called the referendum three weeks ago.

Andries Sihole was killed and an unidentified woman was injured in a bomb blast at the home of Con Booyens, a schoolteacher, in Nelspruit, eastern Transvaal, yesterday. Police said commercial explosives, favoured by right-wing activists, was used.

Nelson Mandela, president of the African National Congress, yesterday threatened to pull the organisation out of multiparty constitutional talks unless the government acted to stop the soaring political violence.

Galaxy of sports stars back reform

BY GAVIN BELL

SOUTH African sports fans who vote against political reforms in today's referendum have been warned that a "no" majority could bowl their cricket team out of the World Cup. They have also been made aware that defeat for President de Klerk would spike their athletes' chances of participating in the Barcelona Olympics, and that their national rugby squad could probably stop dreaming of playing at Twickenham.

Setting aside their distaste for mixing politics with sport, a galaxy of sports stars has rallied around Mr de Klerk by urging white voters to support his reform process. In this sports-mad country, long deprived of international competition, it is a powerful message.

Geoff Dakin, president of the now united cricket board, sent shockwaves around the country by announcing that he would be compelled to withdraw the South African team from the World Cup in the face of a "no" vote. Although the World Cup committee had assured him that it would not interfere, certain countries might refuse to play against South Africa in the semi-finals, he said.

"If these countries refuse to play against us, the only honourable way out is to withdraw," he said. "It will be one

of the saddest days in my life after spending 15 years trying to get us back into international sport."

In a message on radio, the golfer Gary Player said: "Change is the price of survival." Elena Meyer, the national women's 5,500m champion and one of South Africa's best hopes for Olympic gold, says: "Give South Africa a sporting chance."

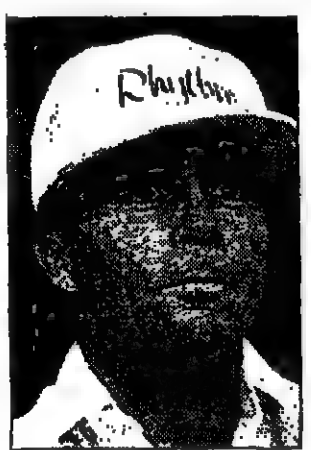
Clive Rice, the former national cricket captain, said: "To vote 'no' means no international sport, no investment, no nothing." The high-flying Transvaal rugby squad assembled for a newspaper photograph holding National party placards urging a "yes" vote.

Bruce Fordyce, ultra-marathon superstar, devoted his weekly newspaper column to an impassioned appeal for reform: "I can't believe that there can be one sportsman or woman who would contemplate a 'no' vote... just think of those lonely, bleak years of isolation; the demonstrators bounding our teams; four bombs dropped on our rugby Springboks; the cancelled tours."

However, Zola Pletzer (Budd) says she is happy at the prospect of running in Barcelona, but that she is unwilling to make political statements.

Player: "Change is the price of survival"

Meyer: brightest hope for Olympic gold



Player: "Change is the price of survival"



Meyer: brightest hope for Olympic gold

Photograph, page 18



Looking for luck: Pat Buchanan dons a leprechaun hat to march in Bay City's St Patrick's day parade. But, despite an aggressive effort, he is trailing far behind President Bush in the Michigan Republican primary

Debate takes an ugly old-style turn

VOTERS go to the polls in the critical Michigan and Illinois presidential primaries today, having watched the Democratic race degenerate into a violent verbal brawl in the finest traditions of Chicago politics.

A televised candidates' debate on Sunday night culminated in the ugliest scenes of this year's elections as Bill Clinton and Jerry Brown jabbed fingers at one another, shouted and traded bitter personal abuse. The former California governor accused Mr Clinton of using his Arkansas governorship to funnel business to his wife Hillary's law firm in the state capital. He accused Mrs Clinton of unethically representing clients before the state agencies. This was a "major scandal" amounting to corruption, he claimed.

An enraged Mr Clinton called the accusation "garbage" and a lie "driven by electoral desperation". He left the podium and, advancing on Mr Brown, declared: "You ought to be ashamed of yourself for jumping on my wife."

Mr Brown, in his third presidential race and is posing as the populist scourge of a corrupt political establishment and refuses campaign contributions of more than \$100 (£60). But, Mr Clinton said, he "comes here with his family wealth and \$1,500 suit making lying accusations about my wife."

Mrs Clinton, who has adopted a high-profile role in

her husband's campaign, angrily denied Mr Brown's allegations yesterday, saying she had never accepted her share of the fees her firm had earned from state agencies. "I could have stayed home and baked cookies," she exclaimed in exasperation.

Polls suggest that Mr Clinton could comfortably win both the Rustbelt primaries today, securing a majority of the 295 delegates at stake to virtually assure himself of the party's nomination in July.

Mr Brown based his charges on an article in *The Washington Post* highlighting the close and lucrative relationship between Mrs Clinton's firm and her husband's state government. In the wake of the allegations of adultery, draft evasion and questionable business dealings against Mr Clinton, the attack underscored the unease felt by many Democrats in this bell-weather state. They see Mr Clinton as easily the most personable and profes-



sional candidate and their only real choice, but fear he will be acutely vulnerable to Republican attacks in November.

At St Patrick's Day parade here on Sunday, some onlookers shouted "draft-dodger", "womaniser" and "where's the Genzifer?" as Mr Clinton passed, a reference to the Arkansas night-club singer who claims to have been his lover.

In a frenetic final campaigning burst, Mr Clinton courted the Chicago polyglot by visiting four black churches, the Irish parade, a Jewish synagogue and a meeting of Asian Americans. Paul Tsongas attended the parade, a gay rights meeting, one black church and the synagogue, but seemed to realise he would not get the victory he desperately needed in either Michigan or Illinois to stall Mr Clinton.

The maverick Mr Brown, who operates on a shoestring, walked the parade with an

aide lugging his luggage behind him. Mr Tsongas's business message, support for a free-trade agreement with cheap-labour Mexico and opposition to "anti-scab" legislation have played poorly in these heavily unionised states. In Michigan he may well come third.

Mr Clinton is now said to be so confident that he is weighing possible running mates, including senators John Kerry of Massachusetts and Bill Bradley of New Jersey. Mr Tsongas said at the weekend he would refuse to be Mr Clinton's vice-presidential candidate.

On the Republican side, Patrick Buchanan, President Bush's conservative opponent, also sounded like a man contemplating heavy defeats today. He poured all his resources into Michigan, hoping to exploit its economic misery, but in the final hours was begging for votes merely "to keep the debate going". He also raised the prospect of mounting a third-party challenge in 1996 "if the Republican party doesn't get back to conservative values and conservative values".

Mr Bush has few fears in Illinois. He has loaded his administration with what he calls an "Illinois cabal" headed by Samuel Skinner, the White House chief of staff, and these surrogates have been campaigning vigorously on his behalf.

Peter Stothard, page 14

Mercury concert heads for the stars

David Bowie, Elton John and George Michael are to head a line-up of stars at a concert in tribute to Freddie Mercury who died from AIDS last November, the organisers confirmed yesterday. Tickets for the Easter Monday concert at Wembley Stadium in London are already sold out.

Other leading singers on the bill include Annie Lennox, Seal, Roger Daltrey, Ian Hunter, Robert Plant and Paul Young. Brian May, John Deacon and Roger Taylor, the remaining members of Mercury's group Queen, will also be taking part. The concert, to be broadcast live on BBC2 and Radio 1, will be shown in more than 70 countries. The money raised will go to Aids research.

An Oscar for lifetime achievement was yesterday awarded to Satyajit Ray, the Indian film director, in a Calcutta hospital, his family said. Three members of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences flew from Los Angeles and went to the hospital's intensive cardiac care unit to make the award. Ray, aged 70, had hoped to be well enough to go to the Academy Awards ceremony in Los Angeles on March 30.

The actor Anthony Andrews describes his latest role as another attempt to kill off Sebastian Flyte, the languid, teddy-loving youth he played in *Brideshead Revisited*. In *The Law Lord*, part of the BBC's *Screen Two* series, Andrews plays a barrister who becomes Lord Chancellor. Andrews says: "Sebastian does seem to have lived in people's memories and had an influence for a long time. It is good to have powerful roles to distance that memory."

Terry Waite, the former hostage, left London yesterday for his first visit to the United States since his release. He will be interviewed by the American television journalist Barbara Walters and will meet personal friends. Mr Waite said he did not expect to be reunited with any of the former Beirut hostages.

A footballer aged 15 who is named after the entire Manchester United team that won the FA Cup in 1977, has just signed schoolboy terms for Leeds. Graham Cross, from Walsall, West Midlands, said: "I always wanted to play for Manchester United but Leeds are a great club."

Ivana Trump is about to launch a new career as an author. Her first novel, *For Love Alone*, written with Camille Marchetta, a former scriptwriter for the television series *Dynasty*, is due out next month.

Thais hit back at Burmese

FROM REUTERS IN BANGKOK

THAI jet fighters were ordered yesterday to attack any Burmese aircraft that crossed into Thai airspace in pursuit of Karen guerrillas.

Thai officers also said their artillery had opened fire over the weekend to repel 200 Burmese infantrymen who had crossed the border to attack a Karen base from the rear. A dozen Burmese soldiers are believed to have been killed by Thai artillery and mortars during the weekend bombardment; six bodies were found on Sunday when Thai troops moved in.

Colonel Niphan Sirpaibul, commander of a task force responsible for border security, said: "The army has ordered the immediate retaliation by fighter plane for any [aerial] violation of Thai territory." Colonel Niphan said the Burmese had urged the Thai army to pull back from the border to avoid casualties when Burmese planes attacked Kaw Moo Ra, the Karen base four miles from the Thai town of Mae Sot.

Kaw Moo Ra and the Karen headquarters at Manerplaw, 90 miles to the north, have come under heavy ground attack in recent days, with the strategic Sleeping Dog Hill falling to Rangoon.

US braced for another cocktail of sex and race

NEW YORK NOTEBOOK by Charles Bremner

Ten days before the sentencing of Mike Tyson, America is bracing itself for yet another wallow in that explosive cocktail: rape, celebrity and race. A sense of déjà vu has settled over the New York headlines over the past three days as three top baseball stars, all millionaires and household names who play for the Mets team, have been accused by a 31-year-old architect of raping her.

Once again, activists are denouncing celebrities who believe they have a *droit de seigneur* to treat all women in their playthings, and sports fans and black militants are sounding off against malicious females who exploit the hysteria over date rape for personal gain.

The Mets case threatens to be uglier than the Clarence Thomas, Kennedy Smith and Tyson affairs because Dwight Gooden, Darryl Boston and Vince Coleman are black and their accuser, the daughter of a prominent playwright, is white. There is another twist: the woman, a fitness fanatic and part-time harem on Manhattan's West Side, waited a year before pressing charges.

Friends said that she had been inspired to do so by the courage of Desiree Washington, Tyson's accuser, and was also convinced by her

psychotherapist that it was the only way to "deal with" the trauma she had suffered.

According to the police, the alleged attack took place in Florida, where the big baseball teams of the North go for their pre-season training. The woman was staying at her holiday house in Jupiter, the small town near Palm Beach which is also the residence of Paty Bowman, the accuser of William Kennedy Smith. She had been going out with another Mets player, a white, and agreed to drive Mr Gooden, the Mets' star pitcher, back to his house after a party. There, she claims, Mr Gooden and the two other players raped her.

The Florida prosecutors and police say they are taking the charges seriously because the woman did come to them with evidence immediately after the incident, though she declined then to sign a formal charge. As in the Tyson and Kennedy Smith cases, the players say the woman was a willing participant and deny the allegations.

No indictments have yet been brought by the prosecutors, but the affair has cast a pall over the opening of the baseball season and the public is now apprised of every detail down to the now familiar graphic details of underwear and bodily fluids.

Mr Gooden's lawyer said America's sports stars were "fair game" these days for such cheap shots with the inevitable big lawsuit goals, a view shared by the players' fans and particularly by blacks. Darryl Strawberry, a former Mets star who now plays with the Los Angeles Dodgers, said: "Black athletes are just tired of being used and abused."

In a commentary yesterday, *The New York Times* said the Mets case was inflaming the "inner torment" of black sportsmen who believed they are victims of extra-harsh standards imposed by a white-dominated society.

Gay and lesbian activists are putting the finishing touches to a spectacular offensive which they hope will shock Hollywood and the world public into greater sensitivity towards homosexuals.

Organisers of the Oscars ceremony on March 30 have already reconciled themselves to the prospect of a big disruption as part of a "massive covert action" by dancers, actors and ushers who are incensed at a string of films which are said to

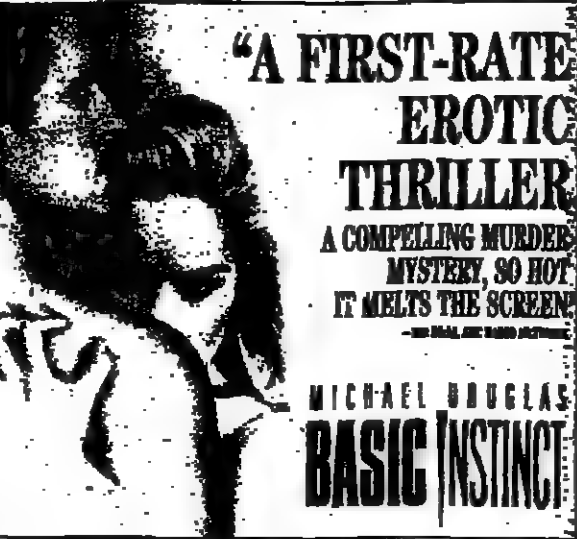
portray gays as serial killers and sundry other villains.

A big demonstration is also expected in New York on Friday where militants from Queer Nation and Act-Up are aiming to picket the premiere of *Basic Instinct*, a mega-budget thriller which earned publicity when gay activists tried to disrupt filming in San Francisco last year.

Few Americans could now be unaware that *Basic Instinct*, directed by Paul Verhoeven and starring Michael Douglas and Sharon Stone, is a 1990s version of *Fatal Attraction*, which features a beautiful bisexual serial killer who dispatches her men with an ice-pick at the moment of their sexual climax.

The homosexual activists say the film is the worst example of a tide of Hollywood "homophobia", and they aim to sabotage it by chanting the answer to "whodunnit" outside cinemas. They have already begun stenciling the killer's name on Manhattan pavements.

The Oscars demonstration is aimed against what the homosexuals see as negative caricatures of queerish homosexuals in a string of films, notably Oliver Stone's *JFK*, *The Fisher King*, *The Last Boy Scout* and *Father of the Bride*.



Provoking poster for a film that angers gays

Manley leaves island a Thatcherite legacy

BY DAVID WATTS, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

MICHAEL Manley, political chameleon and father of modern Jamaica, will leave the island firmly entrenched in the ways of Thatcherism when he resigns later this month.

Hard as it is to imagine, the man who once talked of walking hand-in-hand with Fidel Castro and who sought to transform his country into an anglophone Cuba, now concentrates on the privatisation of Air Jamaica and his role as a key American interlocutor on Latin America.

The overthrow of Mr Manley, educated at the London School of Economics, was once a prime preoccupation of the Caribbean desk at the CIA, but they never fully reckoned with his emotional relationship with the people of Jamaica. Only a leader with his powers of oratory could have achieved his extraordinary personal political changes and carried off the transition from sworn enemy of the International Monetary Fund and all its works to true believer in its restorative powers.

But he had some help from President Reagan who, persuaded by Mr Manley's similar communications skills, decided that his deadly political rival, the Harvard-educated Edward Seaga, leader of the conservative Jamaica

Labour party, was no longer a true guardian of free enterprise and switched American support to the erstwhile "lackey of Castro".

Since then the island has rapidly privatised its industries and freed foreign exchange dealings in spite of horrendous shortages of international currencies. More sinisterly, it has become an important trans-shipment point for drugs going into the United States.

But, while the theme of free enterprise will be picked up by whoever succeeds Mr Manley, his retirement ends a dynasty that predates independence from Britain in 1962. Mr Manley's father, Norman, founded the People's National party in 1938 to represent trade unionists, and served as party leader until succeeded by his son in 1970. The elder Manley was a charismatic man who led the fight for independence seven years after he had become prime minister.

Several years of poor health and five operations in quick succession have persuaded Mr Manley to step down. The favourites to replace him at a party meeting later this month are P.J. Patterson, the party chairman and former finance minister, and Portia Simpson, the present labour minister.

Paddy's need to be noticed

Liberal Democrat policies matter remarkably little, says Peter Riddell

Whenever a politician promises to tell the truth to voters, it is normally humbug, if not self-delusion. Jimmy Carter did so constantly in 1976, and paid the price four years later. Paddy Ashdown yesterday repeatedly said that he would tell the truth as the Liberal Democrats set out their stall as the party for those disillusioned by the campaign. Irritatingly self-righteous though this appeal often sounds, the Liberal Democrats could still have a critical influence on the election outcome.

The party's main aim in the campaign is to be noticed. So its manifesto makes a virtue out of being different. It is full of proposals which Mr Ashdown yesterday claimed were "cut-price", and which the Sir Humphreys of Whitehall would no doubt dismiss as "bold". Income tax and public borrowing are to be raised to pay for an expanded education budget and an emergency programme of public investment. Everything is fully costed. While myriad proposals have been included to please special interest groups, there is little of the frivolity of the Liberal manifestos of pre-Alliance days — in part, a lingering legacy of the SDP influence.

For either of the two big parties to urge an increase in the basic rate of income tax and higher petrol tax, let alone a local income tax, would be electorally counter-productive. But the Liberal Democrats have more modest goals. They are in a niche market, trying to boost their core support of, say, 13 to 15 per cent up to around the 23 per cent of the old Alliance reached in 1987, rather than the 42-43 per cent target of the Tories or Labour.

Curiously, it may be easier to predict the number of seats rather than the number of votes that the party will win. This is largely because most of its MPs are elected on account of local campaigns, not national trends. The best guess of party strategists is that they will end up with about 20, to 25 MPs, compared with the present 22 (ignoring the three Owenite social democrats).

Likely losses are Rochdale (after Cyril Smith's retirement) and the by-election gain of Ribblesdale; also vulnerable, in theory, are Brecon and Radnor, Inverness and Southwark. Possible gains include Cheltenham (where the Tory candidate is black), Cornwall North, Hazel Grove and Edinburgh West. The party normally manages the odd surprise, such as Southampton in 1987; this time, long shot gains could be Taunton or Falmouth.

The Liberal Democrats are unlikely to perform better, and could easily fall back in seats where they have been a good second, such as Stockton South, Cambridge and Stevenage, because previous MPs and strong challengers have dropped out. Indeed, the party could slip from second to third place in a good number of seats in

RIDDELL ON THE ELECTION

the southeast. How far the Liberal Democrat vote slips is, of course, the key to the chances of many Home County Tory MPs retaining their seats in face of a divided opposition. That is why the Tories would like the party's total vote to remain above 20 per cent.

Much depends on Paddy Ashdown himself. He has the virtue of being the non-political politician, the brisk executive who is not part of the Westminster club. But he is susceptible to the political cliché of the moment, like giving a kick-start to the economy, a misleading phrase. He can also be sanctimonious when trying to rise above the party battle. That is a risky approach for any politician, even more for one like Mr Ashdown who has been in the headlines over his private life. He has a tendency to believe in his own myth, enjoying rather too much the adulation he received at

"They still look like a guerrilla band on the edges of the main election battle"

a rally in London on Sunday. The Paddy personality cult could backfire. Otherwise, the party is thin on talent at the top. The Liberal Democrats could find only half a dozen serious contenders to join any coalition. No wonder Mr Ashdown was evasive when asked, given his strong emphasis on education spending, who would be the party's education secretary? No one would take seriously Matthew Taylor, its education spokesman, who is shallow and inexperienced. (Mr Ashdown would be a good candidate himself.) Des Wilson, its campaign director, and other main public face, is a mixed blessing. For all his experience and success as a single issue campaigner, Mr Wilson's talent for self-publicity does not always endear him to the party's MPs — some of whom disagree with his view that the Liberal Democrats can set the campaign agenda.

There is little that the Liberal Democrats can do to affect the outcome, apart from appearing vigorous and united. Their eventual vote will depend on two factors: whether voters are turned off by the other two parties' infighting and whether disillusioned Tories turn to the Liberal Democrats, as in 1964 and 1974. Some of the Tory vote may be soggy in the Home Counties, though, if the polls remain close, it could be scared back to the fold by the prospect of a Labour victory and tax increases.

The press launches yesterday of the Liberal Democrat manifesto and the Labour budget were a striking contrast. No one behaved as if the former's policies would be implemented after the election, while reporters were treating John Smith as if he might be Chancellor in four weeks' time. The Liberal Democrats still look like a guerrilla band on the edges of the main election battle.

Women are still categorised by gender rather than ability, argues Janet Daley

Gagged by our sex



Susan Faludi: no sign of a backlash to feminism

As a woman journalist, I would think myself truly liberated only when I was free to write about newer subjects such as the Gatt talks or proportional representation. I fully expect to have to fight for this right to be one of the boys — for my sex not to be an issue — in my male-dominated profession, but it is infuriating to have to hold out, too, against the pressures of feminists who ought to be maximising women's freedoms, not limiting them.

What the public voice of female liberation means to me is that, as well as being patronised by men, I find myself being attacked by women in confrontations staged by the media. One televised discussion last year pitted me against two women's page writers from *The Guardian*, who shrieked that since I was not speaking "as a woman" in my writing, not only did I not count as a feminist success story but my stand was positively traitorous. Perhaps I got it wrong, but I thought that what this was all about was the right of every person, of whatever gender, to be and say anything they liked.

Those of us who benefited from the move to include female voices in every public forum, found that

unlike men, we were not free to say what we wished on any conceivable subject. Instead of being seen as individuals in our own right, which we might innocently have thought was the whole point, feminists demanded that we be relentless spokespeople for Women. Having fought our way out of the nursery, we were now being called to account by feminist careerists for not addressing every issue from the woman's perspective, whatever that is.

Taking anti-racism as a model, the feminist lobby insisted that there could be no neutral stance in the battle for female equality. If you were not actively promoting the cause, then you were complicit with its enemies.

People in the media thought it wildly amusing, and made the most of the disagreements. Thus was born the idea of a venomous revolt against the whole notion of female equality. In the United States, where they do things on a grander scale, wishful thinking has apparently moved on another stage. Women's studies, women's history and women's literary criticism have been enforcing as rigid a definition of female interests as the old needlework and cookery syllabus. It would not be that surprising, then, if America, having swung with its usual ungoverned enthusiasm to such an extreme, should have swung back again.

After all, is not America now the home of a race of Valkyries?

triumphant Amazons who have reduced their erstwhile male oppressors to gibbering terror, given up child-rearing as a mug's game and cowed public institutions into political correctness? And, having tasted the fruits of freedom and power, are not American women now likely to have become nostalgic for the comforts of marriage and old-fashioned family life?

This makes a plausible story with a satisfying moral: having got it all, women discovered that they had lost What Mattered Most. Indeed, so satisfying is this fairy tale that the American media told it over and over again without bothering to find out whether or not it was true.

In *Backlash: The Undeclared War Against Women*, a book to be published here by Chanté & Windus at the end of the month, Susan Faludi, the American journalist, carefully examines all the coverage which has been given to the fabled backlash against feminism, and found it to be based on scarcely a scrap of evidence. Even

the assumption that women feel themselves to have achieved any real degree of independence proves untrue. Both the triumph and the retreat of feminism are media myths.

I find her case proven: that most women's lives have been unaffected by feminism's "success" and that, far from regretting their freedom, women are still bristling at the lack of it. But some of the blame for this must lie with feminism itself. What was most damaging was its illiberalism, which repelled so many women and even more men.

America's absurd tendency to create mythical images of itself is tied up with its own historical search for identity. The pressure to conform to an up-to-the-minute reaction of acceptable behaviour which Susan Faludi describes has only the palest reflections here.

But if Ms Faludi is anything to go by, even the United States — the home of hysterical over-reaction — may be arriving at some kind of sanity. She quotes Nora from Ibsen's *A Doll's House*: "Before everything else, I'm a human being." Somewhere beyond the reaches of feminist consciousness, there must be a future for us as people who happen to be female.

Nixon shows Bush a trick

Peter Stothard on the ex-president's latest comeback



Will America miss out? Nixon says foreign policy should be central to the November election

Last week Richard Nixon tried to put foreign policy back into the presidential election. The elder statesman has left town. His elderly henchmen, after a few Gaudy days with old friends, have returned to their rocking-chairs and rehabilitation roles.

In Washington the memory lingers on strongly. For those who like their politics as art, the former president's attack on his inward-looking successors was a rich, enduring moment. On the day that Mr Nixon attacked the administration's petty readiness to Boris Yeltsin, George Bush looked like Belshazzar at the feast.

The president seemed nervous and grey. Before the entranced eyes of Washington's intellectual elite, the moving finger had writ. And, having writ, it moved on to the opinion columns and congressional corridors, where it still waggled vigorously yesterday.

In the Washington Post, Mrs Jeanne Kirkpatrick asked what were the president's foreign policy goals — and found none, no recognition that Russian democracy is a matter of vital American interest, no pressure for democracy in China, no support for independent Yugoslav republics. On Capitol Hill, senior Republicans and Democrats respectfully invoked Mr Nixon's name.

Even the middle-aged pundits, whose youth was spent in disgraced exhortation of the 37th president, rejoiced in his return. The speech was a blissful, almost wistful, time for Washington's international relations industry whose underemployed globe-gazers, so recently used to the relentless media call, saw briefly how the Russian aid argument might get them back on the air.

Society leaders who for years have treated Mr Nixon like a crooked brother-in-law welcomed his epiphany. He might still be only acceptable at a distance, for weddings, perhaps, but not supper parties. But the comparison between his confident clarity and the mumbling "no blank check" response of his successor was something to savour.

Out of Washington, however, in

the places where Mr Nixon wanted to have an impact, the sounds of last week's show have not been forgotten: they were never heard. This year's presidential election remains a race in which overseas form is off the card. Today's primaries in Michigan and Illinois will be won or lost on jobs, not on aid to Boris Yeltsin. If any Chicagoan campaign worker asks "Who lost Ukraine?" this evening he will be only to discover why his candidate polled so badly on Milwaukee Avenue.

Mr Nixon, like the pope of old, has no divisions. He is not going to force Bill Clinton to go beyond the "look homeward" theme in foreign policy, dressed up in responsi-

ble think tank prose, which he produced before a bored audience in Washington last September. Nor will he push Paul Tsongas into switching his "invest in America" appeals, or Jerry Brown into making any sort of speech on the world beyond the voting booth.

Mr Brown tells audiences how he learnt about life's sacredness last year by bathing the near-dead of Calcutta with Mother Teresa. But, asked about American aid programmes, he says that he wants "not a penny" to be given until every small farmer, businessman and family in the United States is properly looked after.

Mr Brown's support is growing. Mr Clinton was lucky to pro-

nounce his modest internationalism before voters were taking much notice. Despite Mr Nixon's knife-thrust into George Bush's back, no Democratic candidate wants to aggravate the wound.

The survivor of Watergate has done only one thing for the primary races. He has further frightened the White House political machine, the group which, thanks to his burglaries and tape-wiping efforts in 1972, will never again be called the Campaign to Re-elect the President. Unhinging the Oval Office does not, however, require any special force these days. Creep would be too aggressive an acronym for the men in whom President Bush has placed

his future: poll-hardened Republicans on Capitol Hill suggest instead Sloth or Panic.

It is not hard to see why Robert Moench, Mr Bush's multimillionaire campaign chairman, and Robert Teeter, his pollster and chief political operator, should feel nervous about Mr Nixon. The former president has a reputation for understanding the American mind which they will never have. In 1968 and 1972 he formed the Republican coalition of new Southern whites and traditional Western supporters which has kept Republicans in the White House virtually ever since. George Bush was one of his lieutenants — and neither the brightest nor the best.

Mr Nixon spoke for about an hour last week, in perfect rhetorical periods, without the support of a podium or the help of notes. Senior Republicans were divided on the virtues of his argument. What happened to the \$40 billion that we have poured into Moscow, asked one? What we do is irrelevant, said another, so why throw good money after bad? But all admired the low, relaxed voice, the locked-stoof stance, the easy impression that there was man in charge of his thoughts. The words were Mr Bush's edited vocal scales, formless sentences and knee-smiling, loose-jointed impersonations of Babylon's doomed ruler was as cruel as it was clear.

Until now, Mr Bush has had an excuse for not articulating a coherent role for America in the world after the cold war. Patrick Buchanan has been stomping the country wing voters' economic fears to the claim that other countries are consuming American money, food and jobs.

After today's primaries are over, Mr Buchanan is likely to have been well beaten — at least for this campaign. George Bush will then have to decide whether Mr Nixon's prediction that foreign policy is the issue that will divide him from his Democrat opponents is right. Or will the president continue to trim his message to the wind of those who so want to succeed him?



...and moreover
CRAIG BROWN

It is understandable, I suppose, that so much attention should be paid to those standing in the general election, but what about those who are retiring? This week, I have been reminiscing with Sir Shortley Peverill, the distinguished Conservative backbencher. Since his election in 1959, he has represented the constituency of Gannet West, situated he believes, "somewhere near the south coast — or is it more in the East Anglia direction?"

Sir Shortley remembers well his selection as prospective Conservative candidate all those years ago. At the start of the year, he was not in possession of a wife, but he lost no time in selecting one from the official list of approved wives supplied by Conservative central office. They married just in time for the general election, and he lovingly remembers his devoted wife "June — or possibly Jane, correction: Joan" agreeing to stick by him, putting all future scandals behind her well in advance.

Sir Shortley won his seat for the Conservatives, albeit with a vastly reduced majority. At the time, he had thought Macmillan's slogan, "You never had it so good", too populist, though he now agrees that his revised slogan, "You never had it — so what" may have been a little too blunt for the floating voter.

Upon entering the House of Commons in 1959, he took some time "sizing the place up" before making his maiden speech in early 1963. "I rounded on

Labour," he chuckles. "Absolutely no-holds barred. I said it was high time the Labour government made way for the Conservatives, and that the last 12 years had been a living hell." After his speech, his colleagues reminded him that the government had been Conservative for the past 12 years. "For heaven's sake, let's not split hairs," he replied, adding, "Throughout my political career I've refused to get bogged down in detail."

In 1967, Sir Shortley achieved his first taste of power with his appointment as Opposition spokesman on youth. "As I saw it, my job was to oppose youth, wherever I saw it emerging. At that point youth was in danger of gaining the upper hand, what with the Rolling Stones, Glenn Miller and the lot of them. Some representatives of youth were even rumoured to have infiltrated the Conservative party, and I developed a five-point plan to root them out and force them into the arms of the Labour party."

Sir Shortley resigned from this position six months later, "in order to devote more time to my secretary".

Over the years, Sir Shortley Peverill identified himself with certain issues, including support for capital punishment ("It never did me any harm"). For those six months in 1967, he had been the subject of numerous headlines ("MP Condemns Cliff Richard as Soviet Mole", "Tommy Steele Subverting the Nation's Children Claims MP", "Peverill Calls For Chaired Even-

songs To Replace Top of the Pops"), but after his sudden resignation, he found himself languishing in the political wilderness.

This drove him to the expression of opinions of an increasingly controversial nature, starting with calls for the internment of vegetarians and the abolition of "namby-pamby" rear-view mirrors in cars, and rising to calls for drink-driving to be made compulsory and a ten-point plan for the eradication of the cat as a household pet ("Let's Stop This Dreadful Miaowwing Demands MP").

His speeches in the House itself remained rare, though in a recent debate on monetary union he could be heard repeatedly shouting "bless you" at every mention of the word "ecu".

Eventually, after what he termed "an unfortunate incident" involving an alleged pass at Mr Speaker ("Quite frankly, if he continues to insist on wearing that wig, he's laying himself open to it"), Sir Shortley issued a statement to the effect that his wife Jane was standing by him. A second statement contained an addendum, "For Jane," it said, "read Joan."

In 1988, the Whip's office took ultimate sanction for recommending Sir Shortley for a knighthood. "It was only then," he now recalls, "that I realised my parliamentary career was at an end."

On Thursday, I will be reminiscing with Frank Tork, the Labour veteran.

Songs for swinging voters

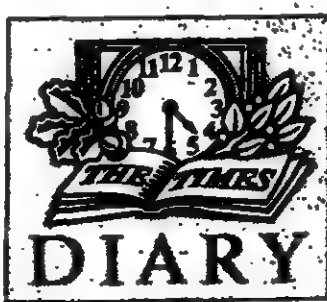
FORGET the battle of the manifestos. The first full week of election campaigning is likely to be dominated by the battle of the bands, as all three parties struggle to establish their theme tunes as chart-toppers by April 9.

Television viewers who heard the Liberal Democrat and Tory party fanfares for the first time — but unfortunately not the last — at the weekend, were not alone. Neither John Major nor Paddy Ashdown had heard their theme tunes until they walked on stage to the strains, respectively, of Andrew Lloyd Webber and Rob Norman.

Lloyd Webber had first approached Shaun Woodward, the party's communications director, some months ago. He then took a recording of Purcell's *Abdelazer*, to play to Major over lunch at Chequers. The prime minister was familiar with the tune and Lloyd Webber went away to add a 1990s disco flavour to the piece, originally adapted by Benjamin Britten for his *Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra*. The finished piece was approved by Woodward and Maurice Saatchi, and Major did not hear the theme until it was played to greet his entry at the Tory Central Council meeting in Torquay.

Fortunately he liked what he heard, but his enthusiasm is not shared by all. John Amis, the broadcaster, says: "It would be better called The Infant's Guide to the Election — in which case it will be perfectly proper to be sick all over it."

My Vote — Paddy's Theme, written by Rob Norman, the former keyboard player with Buck's Fizz, who now composes television jingles, was just as great a musical surprise for the Liberal Democrat



leader. Ashdown heard it for the first time when he entered a London election rally on Sunday. An even bigger surprise will be Norman's voting intentions. "I haven't made my mind up who to vote for," he says. "Whoever is the greenest."

Neil Kinnock, however, has insisted on personally approving Labour's theme, due to be unveiled tomorrow. He was taking no chances after being caught by surprise when Jim Parish, the party's campaigns officer, arranged for Queen's *We Are the Champions* to be played at the end of the 1991 Labour party conference. Kinnock sang along on the platform, but hated every triumphant note. "Where is the man responsible?" he demanded as soon as he could get off stage. "Tell him he can keep his job but not his life."

What a start to the first day proper of the Tory campaign. Midway through the press conference at Central Office denouncing Labour's alternative budget, the lights went out. Word processors ground to a halt, printers stopped and fax machines broke down. As Norman Lamont battled on bravely in the semi-darkness, the London Electricity Board was summoned. After 90 minutes in the cold the power was

still not back on, so Chris Patten's top advisers were temporarily switched from their election duties and dispatched to find some candles.

Beefed up

THE average cow is a contented, docile creature — and small wonder. Along with their winter silage cows consume the equivalent of a bottle of Scotch a day, according to new research. The alcohol is produced in the fermentation process. Dr Martin Owens, who has carried out the research for Pauls Agriculture, says: "There is up to four per cent of alcohol in silage."



This means that a cow, which eats 10kg a day, consumes about 400g of pure alcohol. Enough to sink a rugby team — but not a cow, it seems. "Cows can cope with that much alcohol, because they weigh about ten times as much as humans. It doesn't make them drunk, but I am sure it helps them overcome stress."

Con man Chris

AS academics continue to argue over the significance of Christopher Columbus's voyage to the Americas, Britain has come up

with its own distinguished contribution to the 500th anniversary celebrations. After an absence of 14 years, the Carry On team is being reassembled to produce *Carry On Columbus* with, it is hoped, Barbara Windsor in a starring role.

"She really is synonymous with Carry On," says John Goldstone, the producer. But with the death of such Carry On stalwarts as Kenneth Williams and Sid James, Goldstone is turning to some of the alternative comedians of the 1980s — who ironically made their name out of knocking an earlier generation of British humour which the Carry On films epitomised.

And to which of the rival theories will the Carry On team subscribe — Columbus as heroic discoverer or miserable plunderer? "We will give the story our usual treatment," says Goldstone. "He was a bit of a con man."

The Ritz hotel, Lord Justice Sir James Mathew once observed, is open to all — and election night will be no exception. For the trifling sum of £475, supporters of all parties are invited to partake of a special election night package, including a "themed" dinner complete with a swagmaster in the restaurant and ending with a visit by limousine to the gates of Downing Street the next morning. Throughout the night guests are kept themselves going with a heady mixture of political cocktails. "Major Reform" is a very unconservative mixture of vodka and caracazo; "In a Paddy" consists of Irish whiskey and galliano, while "Neil Before the Queen" would render anyone legless gin, cherry brandy and dry vermouth. Floating voters all, after that little lot. Staff are currently working on a special pick-me-up cure for hung (over) parliaments.



THE PIPS SQUEAK

Labour's shadow Chancellor, John Smith, has finally adopted Anthony Crosland's dictum that socialism is essentially about equality. Labour has dropped unilateralism and come to terms with much of the Thatcherite canon. Yet on tax, Labour is unrepentant. Roy Hattersley said earlier this week that Labour means to take from the rich and give to the poor. What was learnt yesterday was the definition of rich and the scale of the taking. From now on, this battle is not between Tweedledum and Tweedledee. It is about something real.

Mr Smith's shadow budget is disarmingly simple. From most earners on or above £25,000 a year he plans to take more than under any previous Labour government. More than £5 billion will be taken from the 17 per cent of earners who will lose from his proposals. While Denis Healey's famous "pip-squeaking" budgets attacked the super-rich, Mr Smith extends this policy to those on middle-class salaries. The proceeds will be devoted to increased tax allowances, to higher pensions and child benefit, and to increased public spending on health, education and other social programmes.

Mr Smith has softened Labour's previously published plans in one notable regard: he has dropped plans to subject "unearned" incomes of more than £3,000 a year to National Insurance contributions. Otherwise, he has stood his ground. Seldom before have electors been so specifically invited to opt between detailed tax packages at an election.

Mr Smith's budget is as much electioneering as was Norman Lamont's last week. Its fiscal stance is supposedly neutral, though the Treasury finds it hard to add up Mr Kinnock's many spending commitments and see a borrowing requirement no higher than its own awesome £28 billion. Labour is still planning a minimum wage, which must be economically deleterious.

Whether high taxes are specifically harmful has long been debated. Virtually the same tax rates as Mr Smith proposes applied under Mr Lawson, though to fewer people. They were not then said to inhibit effort or

impede growth. But Mr Smith's losers will be big losers: the £50,000 a year family will have £105.70 a week less to spend. Not only will they lose, but those who aspire to their mark will ponder the old question, is the game worth the candle?

Sir Geoffrey Howe's radical 1979 tax proposals do appear to have stimulated a new spirit of British entrepreneurship in the 1980s. Perceptibly important to enterprise. A sense that Britain is returning to the high tax, high public-spending years must discourage those whose spirits and earnings were lifted by a government which believed in the opposite. Tax policy essentially concerns whom to discourage. Mr Kinnock yesterday gave his answer.

Wherein lies the electoral gain in this? Labour's spin doctors were bravely declaring that Mr Smith's package is designed to cane the plutocrats, appease the C2s and enthrone the poor. Since the plutocrats vote Tory and the poor largely vote Labour, it is Mr Smith's effect on the man in the middle that matters: how many floating voters are earning under £22,000 a year, starting point for additional National Insurance? The crude figures look good for Mr Smith. In most of the country outside London, a pay packet of £22,000 a year is a high one. The £40,000-a-year threshold for Mr Smith's top band of 59 per cent tax-plus-national-insurance is more than the average headmaster or country solicitor earns. Some 48 per cent of families will be better off under these proposals than under Mr Lamont's budget.

For the Tories the trick will now be to convince marginal voters that these proposals involve not only a cost to some but a long-term mischief to many. They must do more than that: Labour is gambling, like the Liberal Democrats, that the public is ready for higher taxes provided the benefit of those taxes is "public". The Tories must show that public services are safe in their hands — witness their public borrowing. They must negate the "philanthropic" appeal underlying Mr Smith's high tax message. And they must do it without seeming merely mercenary. No easy task.

PR WITH EVERYTHING

Politics is an ungrateful business. Liberal Democrats live in hope that the old cliché will one day stop being true. If there was any justice, the people who kept "moderation" alive through the polarised 1980s should have their electoral reward now the middle ground is back in fashion. But the latest surveys show little sign of the Lib Dems being thanked in the hard currency of extra votes and seats. If in 1992 they enter at the polls and small real power, it is only because those polls are forecasting a lumpy parliament.

Hanging a parliament should concentrate the mind. So what is distinctive about this party which may hold the balance after April 9? Is it still vulnerable to the Lib, all goodies and no responsibility? Yesterday's publication of the 1992 manifesto was at best a partial answer, for the politics of Liberal Democracy have become dominated by acquiring power rather than by its subsequent exercise.

Hence proportional representation (PR) comes top of the Lib Dem "menu with prices". It is the compulsory hors d'oeuvre, to be followed by a pick-and-mix main course. Those opposed to PR should not dine here. A voter may like the Lib Dem tax-for-education policy and may be happy to contemplate a Lib Dem presence in a coalition government. But since a vote for the Lib Dems is a vote for PR — roughly a fifth of all MPs would be Lib Dem under PR — it is also a vote for a standing Lib Dem presence in all future governments. As with PR in Germany, it is a vote for Paddy Ashdown as foreign secretary for ever. To the floating voter undecided between Neil Kinnock and John Major and thinking of parking his vote with Mr Ashdown, the total price, tasty though each item may be, will look rather high.

Yet there are some good policies in yesterday's document. The 1p on basic income tax, generating £2 billion entirely to be spent on education, may be a gimmick but a good one, at least offering a real choice.

CASTLES IN SPAIN

The "greatest show on earth", Expo 92, opens next month. It is not going to be ready. World fairs and exhibitions, intended to show off the best of the host country, tend to expose other characteristics as well. The last world fair on the continent of Europe in 1958 left Belgium with the Atomium, a hideous erection of trendy futurity that symbolises something not entirely obliging about Brussels. The Festival of Britain left London with the lumpy austerity of the South Bank, so blighted that it has yet to be properly redeveloped more than 40 years on.

Expo 92, coupled to the summer Olympics in Barcelona and Madrid's status as "European city of culture", is intended to make 1992 a Spanish *annus mirabilis*. It celebrates the 500th anniversary of Spain's first escape from the Middle Ages into the exhilaration of New World discovery, and its more recent escape from fascism into modern liberal democracy.

As always with vast prestige projects organised by national committees of politicians, Eurocrats and public relations men, performance is not living up to triumphalist hot air. The unnatural rush to complete castles in Spain on time has caused a number of fires. The worst of these, started by a spark from a welder's torch, burnt to the ground the star Pavilion of Discoveries. This was meant to show the advances of civilisation over the past 500 years. It has become an ironic monument to local incompetence.

Essential roads and motorway links are not going to be finished before the mid-summer at the earliest. Seville, known to the

people apparently resent taxes less when they can see where the money goes. Education is showing in the polls as a main election issue, ranked as such by 33 per cent of voters (according to the latest *Times* Mori poll), compared with 26 per cent in 1987. The Tories are seen as vulnerable on education and the Lib Dems have chosen shrewdly.

Apart from this ring-fenced tax increase, the Lib Dems are wanting to leave tax levels much as they were before the recent Budget. Their preference is for a massive expansion of public spending on capital investment, paid for by further public borrowing, to thrust the economy out of recession. Here also are interventionist policies which might appeal to non-Tories in search of a party but which might seem rash to Tories of the "recession, heal thyself" school.

As for education and the economy, so far more public housing, higher pensions, regional devolution, signing the EC social charter and moving towards a minimum wage, Lib Dem policies are less different from Labour policy than from Tory. Some promises are bolder and better than either: on incorporation of National Insurance into income tax, on phasing out mortgage tax relief, on enhancement of industrial competition. The longstanding Liberal belief in regional identity, for localism and against big central government, lingers on but feebly in this manifesto but it is there. It may indeed be the only surviving ideological distinction between Liberalism and Labour.

The dominant conclusion from yesterday's manifesto is that there is a party that Labour could live with as its junior partner, give or take a fudge on PR, while the Conservatives could not. Yet such is the strength of the club in British politics that these two parties cannot bring themselves to agree even a handful of local non-aggression pacts. The anti-Tory vote remains split. Therein continues to lie John Major's greatest hope.

natives as the oven of Spain, is preparing for 25 million visitors during the six months of Expo, where in a normal year it expects 350,000. Its preparations do not include anything like enough beds, hotels, or roads. The things that are going up fastest in Seville are the prices. The infrastructure is still a building-site, strong on siesta and short of anything approaching finished buildings.

The English have been suspicious of gigantic Spanish construction projects ever since the days of the Armada and the Escorial. Chauvinism towards Spain is deep-rooted, depending on such stereotypes as Manuel, the hopeless Spanish waiter, in *Fanny Hill*, and the horror of half-built hotels and ramshackle facilities in the building boom that devastated the Costas Brava and del Sol in the 1970s.

World fairs are, by definition, ludicrous events, designed for national propaganda rather than the modest function of less portentous fairs, popular bargains and cheap entertainment. They are the playthings of the supranational classes. Expo 92 could never have lived up to its mythical advance billing. The mounting shambles of this Disneyland on the Guadalquivir suggests that Spain has indeed joined Jacques Delors's modern Europe. They will doubtless muddle through with traditional Spanish charm and procrastination. But while the Spanish pay the awesome price of such Eurofolly, despoiling Seville and Barcelona into the bargain, others may decide that this is not the best summer to visit the antique charms of old Andalusia.

Businessmen and the election

From Sir Allen Sheppard and others

Sir, As the general election approaches we believe that British businessmen should urgently consider the longer-term implications for their businesses and employees of a change of government.

One of the main achievements in Britain in the past 12 years, in addition to rising living standards, has been the reappearance of a spirit of enterprise which, in 1979, seemed lost for ever.

There is evidence all around us of this new spirit. During recent years there have been dramatic improvements in productivity and renewed emphasis on innovation and skills. There has been growing employee involvement and also business partnerships with the community.

We have seen substantial inward investment by our trading partners expressing their confidence in our hospitable business climate and significant outward investment all over the world by confident British companies. We have seen a long overdue but essential focus on the quality and design, service and performance of our products.

There is now an encouraging trend at our universities, where enterprise clubs are flourishing and we are witnessing an increase in the number of young people who now regard business and self-employment as realistic career options.

Contrast this with those awful days in the 1970s when overseas businessmen were genuinely sorry for you if you happened to be British! Today those same businessmen express their admiration for the transformation which has taken place over the last decade.

The spirit of enterprise is not a hardy plant. Nor is it yet so firmly established that it can survive in a hostile climate. If it is to flourish it requires the same sort of encouragement it has enjoyed since 1979.

In the interests of Britain's future prosperity we must ask ourselves which political party, on the evidence of re-election utterances, is most likely to provide these conditions. In other words, whom can we trust to put enterprise first?

In forming this crucial judgment we should not be deflected by the current painful world recession nor the now corrected over-heating of the UK economy that took place in the late 1980s.

We believe businessmen should support the party which, since 1979, has been actively and successfully promoting the renewed spirit of enterprise in the British people. This spirit will bring growing prosperity to Britain in the 1990s.

The above reflects our personal views and not necessarily those of the companies of which we are chairman and/or chief executives, etc.

Yours faithfully,
ALLEN SHEPPARD (Grand Metropolitan),
ALEX ALEXANDER (John Balfour),
JOHN BAIKSTON (Queens Most House),
JAMES BLYTH (Boon),
PETER CATESBY (Vaux),
ROBERT CLARKE (United Biscuits),
JOHN CUCKNEY (Kewell Insurance),
PETER DAVIS (Reed International),
IAN HAY DAVISON (Stonhouse),
DELOUNT (Crest Leisure),
PETER DREW (Trent Woodrow),
THOMAS FARMER (Kwikfit),
ROCCO FORTE (Roca),
MICHAEL FOSTER (Counage),
RICHARD GORDANO (Ex-BOC),
ALISTAIR GRANT (Angit),
MICHAEL GUTHRIE (Bright Reasons),
MICHAEL JACKAMAN (Allied Lyons),
JOHN JARVIS (Jarvis Hotels),
RICHARD JEWSON (Meyer International),
STANLEY KALMS (Dixons),
DAVID KENDALL (Bonz),
DAVID LEES (KKN),
STUART LIFTON (Sunhope Properties),
IAN MACLAURIN (Tescos),
GEOFFREY MAITLAND SMITH (Sears),
PATRICK MEANEY (Rank),
NIGEL MOBBES (Slough Estates/Alms of Industry),
GEOFF MULCAHY (Kingfisher),
JOHN NISLI (Jinns),
ERIC PARKER (Trafalgar House),
BRIAN H. PEARCE (Pearce Signs),
ALAN POND (Oakstead Holdings),
ERIC POUNTAIN (Tarmac),
ROBERT SCHOLEY (British Steel),
NEIL SHAW (Tate & Lyle),
GILES SHEPARD (Savoy Hotels),
STOCKTON (Macmillan Publishers),
ALAN SUGAR (Amstrad),
CLIVE THOMPSON (Rentokil),
MALCOLM WALKER (Iceland),
PETER WALTERS,
20 St James's Square, SW1,
March 16.

Business letters, page 23

Wheeler-dealing

From Ms Elaine Fullard

Sir, As an NHS employee I can claim 5.5 pence a mile for my "business" bicycle allowance which I think is an enlightened step forward ("Doctors urge shift from car to the bicycle", report, March 4).

However, the business allowance for my 1300cc car is nearly seven times that amount (37.5p per mile). Would it not be in the interests of perhaps the largest employer in Europe to increase the bicycle allowance as a first move toward achieving the goals of the NHS for better health?

Yours truly,
ELAINE FULLARD,
6 Harpes Road, Oxford.

Carey, evangelism and other faiths

From the Rector of Hawkwell

Sir, The Archbishop of Canterbury's refusal to be patron of the Church's Ministry Among the Jews is far more serious than your leading article (March 12) suggests. It is not on a level with decisions over the other 400 organisations of which his predecessors have been patron or president.

The CMJ is inevitably at the heart of the biggest controversy in the decade of evangelism, namely the Church's relationship with other faiths. A crucial question is whether we should sensitively evangelise adherents of other religions.

Dr Carey's action will greatly strengthen the hand of those who say we should not. For many it will be seen as not merely a decision against the CMJ but as detracting from our Lord's commission to evangelise the whole world, including his own people, the Jews.

It will also delight the opponents of the CMJ, some of whom spread scurrilous rumours about the society. As a council member I know that the CMJ deeply respects Jewish culture and is painfully aware of the damage caused by centuries of anti-Semitism.

But it cares enough for Jewish people to encourage them to accept Jesus as their messiah and saviour, whilst remaining true to their cultural heritage. Its evangelism is sensitive and entirely "above board".

For 150 years successive archbishops have been patrons of the society. But now, in its most embat-

ted situation ever, Dr Carey has deserted it.

Yours faithfully,
TONY HIGTON,
The Rectory, Hawkwell,
Hockley, Essex.

From the Reverend Philip Schofield

Sir, Dr Carey's appeal in support of the Jewish-Christian centre at Selly Oak (report, March 2) and his refusal to be patron of the Church's Ministry Among the Jews (report, March 11), reveal a consistency of thought and action which is to be commended in a church leader. I believe his concern for evangelism, and the centrality of Christ in his own personal faith, cannot be questioned.

To speak, as the Reverend Tony Higon did, of the archbishop's action as being "a shameful betrayal" and an undermining of the "cause of the gospel" serves only to highlight yet again one of the many divisions within the Church. In a world and a society so harshly and so violently violated by religious bigotry it is not time, within each religion and among all religions, for people of good will to seek common ground whereby they can work harmoniously together?

Dr Carey rightly says we should encourage "trust and friendship between different faith communities" but the CMJ, with its frequently aggressive and offensive approach to the Jews, is often counter-productive, and its sometimes "softly, softly, catchee monkey" approach deceives no one.

Yours sincerely,
PHILIP SCHOFIELD,
Lantau, 8 Priory Close,
Penyffordd, Chester.

Gatt 'stalemate'

From the Chairman of the European Movement

Sir, Your front page report today on the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) talks is less than usually constructive. Its headline refers to the European Community "sabotaging" these crucial negotiations at a key stage.

However, it would be fairer to refer to the "stalemate" between the parties which should not be attributed to Community obduracy. The United States also has been extremely difficult and obstructive in refusing to include in the negotiations its own internal farm support deficiency payments system.

This accounts for the bulk of the American support arrangements and should logically be included as it

has a direct effect on export prices.

The Commission is quite right to point out that this is the mainstay for American farmers. In fact, the total American support is approximately equal to the total financial support given in the Community common agricultural policy (CAP) scheme. But US farmers are around one third of the number of farmers in the EC. It is not difficult to assess which is the really extravagant and indulgent support system. The CAP needs reform but the American system needs it even more. Also, this is not likely to happen while the American elections are raging.

Yours faithfully,
HUGH DYKES, Chairman,
European Movement,
Europe House,
158 Buckingham Palace Road, SW1,
March 5.

Water transfers

From Mr B. H. Rofo

Sir, I am surprised at the comments by Sir Hugh Fish implying that a general transfer of water between regions will solve all our future problems, and Mr Millicamp's suggestion (both letters, March 16) that it would save money.

At regional level, considerable thought is being given to methods of demand management, and the feasibility of inter-basin transfers is always an option to be considered. However, the fundamental need is to provide more storage in the system, both to prevent the unnecessary loss of water to the sea mentioned by Sir Hugh and to maintain the flow in upland streams desired by Mr Millicamp.

Ceremonial duties

From Alastair Bruce of Crionaich

Sir, Your leader ("Ground arm", March 7) forgets that public duties and ceremonial have a symbolic purpose and are not just side shows for tourists.

Ever since the Civil War, when Cromwell's army subjugated the freedoms of British people, we have wisely bound our forces to the Crown. Since then, the constitutional monarchy has ensured democracy, keeping both monarch and military at a safe distance and apolitical. Marlborough's pageantry was designed to bolster this loyal bond.

Today we are reassured by soldiers peacefully maintaining democracy.

Reservoir storage is a necessary part of most inter-regional transfer schemes due to the seasonal delay between the rainfall and the demand on water supplies in the following dry season.

Most reservoirs serve also as a means of considerable environmental gain, both in landscape and conservation terms, whilst at the same time providing for water resources and a recreational area.

Yours sincerely,
B. H. ROFO,
(Past President, Institution of Water and Environmental Management),
Rofo, Kennard & Lapworth
(Consulting Engineers),
Rafferty House,
2-4 Sutton Court Road,
Sutton, Surrey,
March 16.

Banana dispute

From Mr Bowen Wells

Sir, The banana supply dispute described so well by Michael Hornsby on March 11 is a matter of great consequence to the future of the West Indian banana-producing countries and the European consumer alike.

If they were deprived of their ability to earn their living growing and selling bananas enterprising farmers might well turn to the other tropical crop that could replace bananas profitably, namely drugs. Those who could might seek to emigrate to Britain, Europe and North America.

The European consumer would be unlikely to benefit since he would have no choice but to buy the standardised product of the US-owned multinational companies, who could dictate the price.

In the pursuit of the single European market or Gatt Round can we be justified in contemplating such human wreckage, regardless of our historic responsibilities?

Yours faithfully,
BOWEN WELLS
(Parliamentary adviser,
Geist Organisation, 1982-92),
House of Commons,
March 14.

Roads and landscape

From Mr Lawrence Evans

Sir, In his letter of March 6, commenting on the desirability of the Twyford Down route, the director of the British Road Federation alleges that the M40 has had "minimal visual impact" on the Chiltern hills and valleys.

In fact, this concrete eruption has totally distorted the landscape. Recently, standing near the Icknield Way with my back to Lecknor, I dreamed of the tranquillity that once enfolded this countryside; I then moved a little further along and the dream became a nightmare. Across a high ridge, alien to the environment, thundered vans, lorries and cars filling the air with a dull roar. Is this also the future for Twyford Down?

Yours truly,
LAURENCE EVANS (Chairman,
Historic works and buildings group),
The Chiltern Society,
Quill Lodge, Wyatts Road,
Chorleywood, Rickmansworth,
Hertfordshire,
March 9.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5046.

Contrary gusts on sail training

From the General Secretary of the Marine Society

Sir, Commodore Morin Scott's letter (March 11) seeks the construction of a new sailing ship to provide sail training for the royal and merchant navies.

The Royal Navy, after much debate in the early 1930s, decided that sail training was no longer relevant to the operation of modern naval vessels. As the then First Sea Lord, Admiral of the Fleet Lord Chatfield, emphasised, such ships expose young officers to a risk which would be virtually impossible to justify to the public should an accident occur. His fears have been amply borne out since then by the loss of several sail training ships.

Tall ships are no more immune today from the unexpected squall than they were in the past, and professional seafarers need practical sea training in the ships which they are likely to operate during their career at sea. The Marine Society considered that these factors were the most significant when deciding on a suitable training ship for young professional seafarers and accordingly has been operating its two seagoing motor-driven training ships for over five years.

Britain has sufficient sail training vessels of a size to meet the current demand for character development. All take young people seeking Duke of Edinburgh awards and all have difficulty in making ends meet without significant appeals to the public for donations. The tall ships of other nations are heavily, if not completely, financed from public funds.

This nation is unfortunately not "essentially maritime", except in the eyes of a minority. While a large tall ship may help to offset the general lack of sea awareness, I would venture to suggest that the capital and annual income required for such a ship might be far better spent in a continuing campaign to draw the attention of the public, press, Parliament and government departments to the importance of maritime activities to the prosperity and peace of this nation.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD FRAMPTON,
General Secretary,
The Marine Society,
202 Lambeth Road, SE1,
March 12.

From Captain A. E. Thomson

Sir, Morin Scott's plea for a large and prestigious square-rigger for Britain is understandable. Modesty probably prevented his pointing out that he was the father of our small and prestigious square-rigger TS Royalist, which has represented the Sea Cadets, the youth of Britain and the nation at most of the International Tall Ships Races during her 20-year life.

Royalist is in the midst of her mid-life re-fit, which will lead to a reinvigorated second half of life, but requires £500,000. Thousands of city teenagers whose young lives can be transformed by their six days before the mast will benefit.

Yours hopefully,
ANDREW THOMSON,
Sea Cadet Headquarters,
202 Lambeth Road, SE1,
March 13.

to run the services as businesses, without actors dressing up to carry out our ceremonial duties.

Each serviceman and service-woman must prove themselves worthy before being granted the honour of wearing the uniform, and out-of-work members of Equity have no more right to wear that uniform than they have to write *Times* editorials. Cardboard policemen, actors changing the guard — we are in danger of becoming as two-dimensional as some of the tourists who think we are so wonderful.

Yours faithfully,
MARTIN RUBENSTEIN,
Officers' Mess,
Royal Air Force,
Kinloss, Morayshire.

Power politics

From Mr Herb Greer

Sir, David Evans's letter of March 12 about the American origin of "double whammy" was correct but incomplete.

The term was borrowed by cartoonist Al Capp from baseball players who used the "whammy" to spook the opposing team. The single whammy was "thrown" by pointing (usually at the pitcher) index and little fingers extended like horns, the two middle fingers held against the palm, in the rude *cornuto* gesture used originally by Italians.

The double whammy used two hands like this, held palm to palm. Either gesture was accompanied by an evil-eye glare, monocular or binocular — depending on the strength desired.

I believe *Life* magazine once ran a picture spread on this curse, showing how it could be doubled and redoubled and tripled by several malign players crowding together and sticking up their hands all at once. And yes, this did happen in the 20th century.

Yours,
HERB GREER,
124 Fog Lane,
Didsbury, Manchester,
March 12.

OBITUARIES

JEAN POIRET

Jean Poiret, French actor, playwright and director, died in Paris on March 14 of a heart attack, aged 65. He was born on August 17, 1926.

JEAN Poiret's name is synonymous worldwide with *La Cage aux folles*, which he wrote in 1973. Its phenomenal success, first as a stage play, then as a film and later a Broadway musical, could so easily have eclipsed his acting and directing career in the cinema and theatre, as well as his more recent work as an adapter of stage plays. Poiret, however, was not a man to be overshadowed by one big hit.

From afar his slight, impeccably tailored silhouette was that of the perfect English gentleman. Within conversing distance, he was a Frenchman to his eloquent fingertips. To engage Poiret in conversation was to embark on a perilous adventure that could last all night and would leave you exhilarated and exhausted from trying to keep up with his mercurial mind or match his ironic wit, which had a laser-like precision and accuracy.

Poiret first caught the public eye in 1953, when a chance meeting with a fellow actor, Michel Serrault, revealed a natural partner. Together they developed a cabaret act that had Paris helpless with laughter. Their loquacious sketches left none of the sacred cows of the day unsmiled and the produce of those cows was turned into the crème de la crème of satire.

By the 1970s, Poiret, now married to playwright Françoise Dorzière, had become one of France's leading film actors. The film director Jean-Pierre Mocky found a kindred irony in Poiret's acerbic irony, machine-gun delivery of dialogue and look of undefinable but undeniable anguish. Later he also became a favourite choice of Claude Chabrol. His best performance for Mocky was probably as the highly-strung,



With Annie Girardot in Christian-Jaque's film *La Française et l'Amour*, 1961

wheelchair-bound Lourdes pilgrim in *Le Miracle*, and for Chabrol the urbane, silver-tongued police inspector in *L'inspecteur Lavardin*, both released in 1986. With these Poiret perhaps came closest to revealing his own inner, private persons.

Serrault's own career followed similar lines, and indeed the names of the two actors often rolled side by side on the credits. It was in 1973 however that their partnership was cemented into French theatrical history, with the creation of *La Cage aux folles*, which brought homosex-

uality and transvestism out of the closet and onto the stage, not as a subject to be sniggered about but as one that had all the ingredients of contemporary farce. The action was set rolling by the decision by the son, fathered by one partner of a homosexual couple, to get married. "Parents" have to be presented to future parents-in-law.

Poiret, the actor, also provided the masculine shoulder for Serrault's deliciously outrageous *folle* to lean on. That first production ran for over 2,000 performances and no two audiences ever saw the same

show. Depending on the state of mind of its stars, the play could last anything from two to three hours, embellished with spur-of-the-moment visual and verbal gags.

The next Poiret theatrical landmark was in 1980 with *Joyeuses Pâques* — recently played in London as *Paris Match*. Once again Poiret was author and star. Nightly he led the rest of the cast a merry dance with ad-libs, which had audiences clamouring for more.

In recent years Poiret showed himself to have a flair for adapting foreign farce, with a penchant for

the work of Ray Cooney. He never pretended to be bi-lingual, but he knew how to take a ready-made story-line and, by introducing some subtle French touches, tailor it to his own style. Poiret was always at his best in his own adaptations. On a good night, the 20-minute soliloquy in the 1991 French production of Neil Simon's *Rumours*, could last for over 40 minutes. In Poiret's inventive hands, as adapter and male lead.

Three days before he died, Poiret was nominated for a Molière (the Parisian equivalent of the Olivier Awards) for best adaptation: *Sans Rancune* based on *No Hard Feelings* by Sam Bobrick and Rob Clark. *Trois Panouilles*, the Poiret reworking of Ray Cooney and Tony Hilton's *One For The Pot*, has already been nominated as best comedy.

He had just finished shooting *Le Zèbre* — his first full-length feature film as a director — and was convalescing at his Paris home, after ill health had forced him into hospital for a few days. The film stars the actress Caroline Cellier. Poiret had lived with her for a number of years after the break-up of his marriage to Françoise Dorzière. He eventually married Cellier in 1989; they had a son, Nicolas. His daughter, Sylvie, by his first wife, had a small role in *Cage aux folles*.

After the tidal wave of success of *Cage aux folles* Poiret and Serrault had constant offers to repeat their partnership. They refused them all, deciding, probably wisely, to go their own equally successful ways. They met professionally on film sets from time to time and were constantly in each other's company as friends. However, shortly before his death, Poiret had hinted to Serrault that they should team up again on a Paris stage to do *La Cage aux folles* Broadway style.

APPRECIATIONS

Menachem Begin

I ADMIRE the full-scale scholarship and insight that went into the full page obituary of former Israeli prime minister Menachem Begin (March 10).

Yet I was non-plussed and even alarmed by the reference to the "strongly anti-Semitic Polish army". It seems to reflect that strange Polonophobic attitude that "if it's Polish it must be anti-Semitic", an attitude and prejudice that many Jews from Poland like Menachem Begin did not share.

Of course there are Poles who are anti-Semitic, just as there are British people who are anti-Semitic, but that should not be enough to tarnish a whole nation, or a whole nation's army with that brush.

Menachem Begin was able to leave the Soviet Union as one of 4,000 Polish Jews who enlisted in the Polish Army despite the vociferous protests of Stalin. When this army of former prisoners from the Soviet Union reached the British mandate in Palestine, the Jewish soldiers were keen to join in a struggle for an independent Jewish homeland. Some 3,000 Jews "de-

serted" the Polish Army, with the secret understanding of the Polish commander, General Anders, while Begin, now a corporal, decided to do so openly. It was the Polish Army's policy not to seek to recover and recapture these "deserters", despite the resentment of the British administrators.

General Anders felt that his task was to fight the Germans, while Jewish soldiers were keener on challenging the British and the Arabs. General Anders had no wish to command an army that would be divided on this essential task.

Wiktor Moszczyński,
Federation of Poles
in Great Britain



Sir Harold Hobson

HAROLD Hobson (obituary, March 14) was part of my inheritance when I became editor of *The Sunday Times* and I bequeathed him to my successor a dozen years later. In all this I never doubted that he was the best theatre critic that we could have had, less scintillating than some of his rivals but a true critic, giving his own honest judgment unblemished by popular fashion or professional ideology. Judgment in artistic matters is an art, not a science. It may be mistaken, but it is not invalidated by the failure or success of that which it declares good or bad, better or worse. Harold Hobson based his judgements on good sense, personal feeling and immense experience, but he was not obstinately committed to them for all time, and he was sensitive to criticism from those whom he admired.

Your obituarist rightly celebrated his courage and determination in surmounting

with the noble support first of his parents and then of his wife Elizabeth — his physical handicap. Let me add another proof of those qualities. Infected with love of French drama and the French theatre, he set himself, in middle life, to learn French; studying laboriously from gramophone records, and becoming a master of the language. His chivalry of the Legion d'Honneur was the proudest honour of his life.

H. V. Hodson



MARIA SHIRLEY

Maria Shirley, art historian, has died aged 64. She was the editor of *Leslie's Life of Constable* and author of a monograph on Bonington.

AFTER training at the Slade School during its wartime stay in Oxford, Maria Shirley met Kenneth Clark, who later encouraged her to lecture on the history of art. She came to work increasingly for the

University of London extramural department and was so successful that she was largely responsible for the enormous expansion of courses in art history in the post-war years.

By promoting courses leading to a university diploma, she supported rigorous academic standards, so that the diploma came to be recognised as a real qualification and consequently attracted able people to teach it.

March 17 ON THIS DAY 1925

Edith Evans (1888-1976) was praised for her part in this play by Princess Elizabeth Bibo, the wife of Prince Anselmo Bibo. A woman of wit, charm and intelligence, she was the daughter of H.R. Asquith, later the Earl of Oxford and Asquith, the Liberal Prime Minister, by his second wife, the formidable Margot Tennant.

EVERYMAN THEATRE
"THE PAINTED SWAN"
BY ELIZABETH BISCO
Thompson Lord William Cathcart
Lord William Cathcart
Selina Timothy Carstairs
Philip Jordan
Lady Emily Cathcart
Ann (Lady Candover)
Ninian (Lord Candover)

They are all chattering and swooping epigrams about Ann, what an innocent she is, what an idealist, what a saint. In her good works, though she is the wife of the Lord Lieutenant, she is no respecter of persons; she sneers without disaster between the Scylla of Whitechapel and the Charybdis of the County.

She is not, you hear, in love with her husband. When she appears, you often find out with whom she is in love. "In" love, indeed, over head and ears in it, and with a man whom you at once see to be utterly unworthy of it. Her rhapsodies bore him, her childlike simplicity and sincerity he manifestly does not understand. Unhappy woman! To have such a husband, dry, dull and pompous, and to turn from him to such a lover! And yet so great is her power of idealisation, so beautiful the image of love she has in her mind, that she is actually happy, brimming over with happiness, when the poor creature, her lover, can spare her a few moments from "the House". (He is a "rising" politician.)

The chapter of the others still goes on, the air is still thick with epigrams; but one evening there is a crashing discord. The rising politician is said to have ruined his career. He was absent last night from the House, where he was left in

Mr. Allan Jeayes, as the lower, seemed, in the police-court phrase, to feel his position acutely, and no wonder.

JAMES BROOKS

James Brooks, American artist, died on Long Island on March 9 aged 85. He was born in St Louis, Missouri, on October 18, 1906.

IN 1935 under the Federal Arts Project, in a development of Roosevelt's New Deal of 1933, the US government, as an investment for the future, allowed 5,500 poverty-stricken artists and art teachers a working wage. No stylistic qualifications were imposed, so that, as a result, a number of American artists who were later to become famous — including Gorky, Pollock, de Kooning, Beuys, Rothko, Gottlieb, Guston, and James Brooks — were able to work without pressure on their own way.

When European artists arrived in America in the 1940s as cultural refugees, these American artists were ready to absorb the idea of the surrealists that spontaneous painting could reach deep into the sub-conscious.

A new group emerged from this fusion in the late 1940s to gain world renown as Action Painters or Abstract Expressionists. They were later known as the New York School and 15 of them were famously photographed by *Life* magazine as *The Irascibles* in 1951. Brooks had already been acknowledged as one of America's foremost mural artists, with his "Acquisition of Long Island" painted in 1937-8, for Queens borough library, and his 23-foot-long "Flight" of 1938-42 for La Guardia Airport, New York.

James Brooks studied art at Southern Methodist University and at the Dallas Art Institute before going, in 1926, to New York where he studied in the evenings at the Art Students' League under Kimon Nicolaides and Boardman Robinson. After a period working for the Federal Art Project from 1938 to 1942, he served with the US Army as a war artist in Europe and the Middle East from 1942 to 1945.

On demobilisation James Brooks used successive teaching posts to fund his painting at Columbia University, the Pratt Institute and Yale. He developed his style from a synthetic Cubism in 1945 to freer painter around 1948,

and, under the influence of Jackson Pollock, poured paint on the reverse side of canvas in 1949. He differed, however, from Pollock in that he subsequently reworked the resulting stains, in his mature style of the 1950s, areas of colour — as much brushed as poured — float over each other in a flux. In the 1960s, line was to intrude into these areas of colour to set up a planned disturbance; but the overall mood remained the same. A retrospective of his work circulated from the Whitney Museum in 1963-4.

When the 17 Abstract Expressionists in the *New American Painting* exhibition arranged by the Museum of Modern Art, New York, came to London in early 1959, Brooks had already nearly 30 years of artistic development and teaching behind him. The five paintings on show by him were not so extreme in format that they could not be related to European experiments; and his catalogue quotations were clear and confident. "The painting surface has always been the rendezvous of what the painter knows with the unknown, which appears on it for the first time." "There is no more forthright a declaration, and no shorter path to man's richness, nakedness and poverty than the painting he does."

Brooks was one of the more gestural of the Abstract Expressionists, or Action Painters as they were first known. He was often bracketed with de Kooning and Hofmann. But after the initial public exhibitions such as *The New Decade* in 1955 and *12 Americans* in 1956, at the Whitney Museum and the Museum of Modern Art respectively, a measure of revisionism entered, favouring the formally planned over the spontaneous, so that by the time of the authoritative exhibition *Abstract Expressionism: The Formative Years* at the Whitney in 1978, Brooks was not among the 15 painters represented.

However, Irving Sandler's two monumental histories of the Abstract Expressionists and the New York School place Brooks firmly with the first generation of that school. The Tate Gallery owns one painting by Brooks, "Boon" of 1957.

Heinz Kühn, German politician and journalist and minister-president of the state of North Rhine-Westphalia from 1966 to 1978, died in Cologne on March 11 aged 80. He was born in Cologne on February 18, 1912.

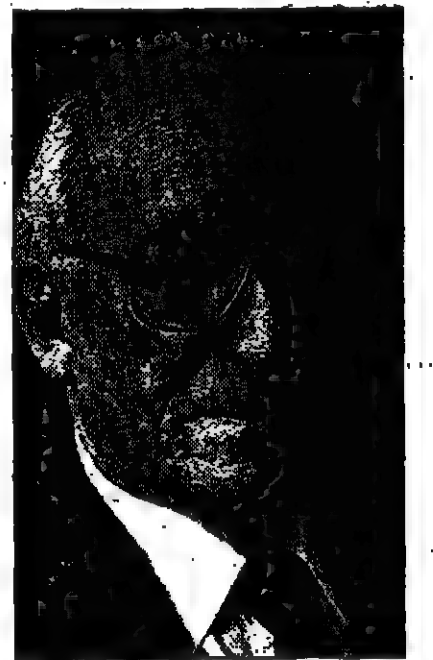
A MEMBER of the German Social Democratic Party (SPD) from the time he was 16, Heinz Kühn was forced to flee his country shortly after the Nazi takeover in 1933, returning immediately after the war to help in the creation of a strongly democratic Germany.

The son of a carpenter who was an active SPD member and trade union worker, he studied politics and economics at Cologne University, where he became very involved in the youth movement of the SPD, working as well for the party newspaper. Although the Nazis banned all parties when they took power, he went on trying to keep the SPD apparatus functioning but quickly realised his efforts were futile and that he was in danger.

He escaped first to Prague and then, as the Nazi empire grew, moved to Brussels and finally to Geneva in order to stay out of the clutches of the Gestapo. During his exile he earned his keep as a journalist, contributing to anti-Nazi papers such as *Das freie Deutschland*, published in Brussels. His mother had been a devout Roman Catholic and he had joined the church's youth group as a youngster. However, he was so disillusioned with what he saw as the Catholic church's collaboration with the Nazis that he eventually abandoned it and pinned all his faith on his politics.

Back in Cologne at the end of the war he joined the staff of the *Rheinische*

HEINZ KÜHN



Zeitung as foreign editor in 1946, rising to become editor in 1949. By then he was already a member of the North Rhine-Westphalian state parliament in Düsseldorf and was increasingly becoming part of the SPD leadership.

In 1953 he was elected to the Bundestag and quickly became chairman of the parliament's press, film and broadcast committee. He won Bundestag seats in the next two elections and was a member of both the Council of Europe and the Western European Union. In 1963, however, he decided to aban-

don national politics and return to lead the SPD in North Rhine-Westphalia, where the Christian Democrats were in power. Three years later the SPD became the strongest party in the state and he eventually formed a coalition with the Free Democrats (FDP) establishing a model followed subsequently by the two parties nationally to create a federal government.

His state government concentrated on school and administration reforms as well as on cleaning up the industrial wastelands of the Ruhr and Rhine. He was also deeply concerned by the inequalities of wealth between the rich and poor regions of the world and devoted more time to this than his party liked. He wanted to study the problem in first hand and travelled widely, visiting underdeveloped areas in Asia, South America and Africa. This led to charges of weak leadership at a time when strong differences began breaking out within the coalition over economic policy. In 1978 he resigned, handing over to Johannes Rau, who has since led the SPD to an overall majority in the state.

Despite the local differences, he was still deeply respected nationally within the party and was Willy Brandt's choice as deputy chairman of the SPD in 1973. A powerful orator, he played an important role in developing the SPD's policy throughout the 1960s and 1970s.

In retirement he was appointed commissioner for foreigners, a kind of ombudsman, and he served in that difficult post for two years. From 1979 to 1984 he was a member of the European Parliament.

He is survived by his wife, Marianne, and their son.

FRANK HOLDEN

Frank Holden, astronomer, died in Stafford on February 21 aged 75.

FRANK Holden was a civil servant turned astronomer. After working as a land drainage engineer he was able to transform his spare time love of star gazing into a career which took him to America and South Africa, after he had won a mature student's grant which enabled him to take a master's degree at Manchester. Thereafter he did important work, observing southern hemisphere double stars.

He was educated at St Ignace School and the Catholic College, Preston, and Skerry's College, Liverpool, before joining the civil service where he worked as a land drainage engineer for the

Ministry of Agriculture, and as a river gauging engineer for the Lancashire Rivers Board.

He had always been an active amateur astronomer, his interest in the subject having stemmed from viewing the total eclipse in Preston in 1927. He was a member of the British Astronomical Association for 49 years and a fellow and life member of the Royal Astronomical Society.

He was honorary assistant and demonstrator at the Jeremiah Horrocks Observatory, Preston, 1938-1956, and for ten years honorary secretary of the Preston and District Astronomical Society, which he had founded. He also lectured in astronomy for Workers Educational Extension Courses, North-East Region, 1952-1958. Throughout his

life he encouraged others to take an interest in astronomy. In 1956, having been awarded a UK state (honorary) scholarship, Holden went to Manchester University and took an MSc in 1959 with a thesis on "Interferometric Observation in Double-Star Astronomy". The observational work for the thesis was carried out at the Royal Greenwich Observatory and at the Pic du Midi in the French Pyrenees.

Holden left Preston with his family in August 1959 to work in America. In Pennsylvania he taught at Swarthmore College, where he also carried out research at Sproul University and Drexel University. Later, he continued his double-star observations at Lowell Observatory, Flagstaff, Arizona, before being

appointed astronomer-in-charge of the University of Michigan's Lamont-Hussey Observatory in Bloomfield Hills, South Africa.

There he worked for nine years in visual observations of southern double stars. Returning to the US in 1972 he was an observer at Lick Observatory, San Jose, California, and also a visiting observer at Cerro Tololo and Las Campanas observatories in Chile.

He retired from active astronomy in 1979 returning to England to live in Stafford, where he founded the local astronomical society, and on holidays visited astronomical observatories including Pulkovo near St Petersburg and Ulan-Beg in Samarkand.

He leaves his widow, Dorothy, and a son.

Science and religion

Archbishop's warning on the quest for a modern holy grail

By RUTH GLEDHILL
RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

TO PURSUE knowledge at any price may seem heroic, but it is a goal which may threaten too much that is human, the Archbishop of York, Dr John Habgood, said in Houston, Texas.

"In scientific circles the idea that it is possible to know too much, or worse, the prospect that there might be some areas of forbidden know-

ledge, are major heresies." Dr Habgood, a former demonstrator in pharmacology at Cambridge University, speaking at a three-day conference on genetics, religion and ethics, emphasised the need to respect individual privacy in genetic research. He said there was a core of human personality which should be inviolable.

Given modern powers, the urgent question had become, not "What can we do?" but

"What should we do?" he said. "Less compelling nowadays, too, is the assertion that knowledge is some kind of absolute value whose claims outweigh all other claims."

Dr Habgood said the human genome project in its early days was presented in a quasi-mystical way as "the grail of human genetics".

"Borne up by such rhetoric it became the unstoppable quest, the ultimate search for the essence of humanity, the

blueprint for understanding human biology."

He compared it to the quest for the grail of medieval legend, symbolic of the quest for the secret of life. "It was also about magical powers. It has strong magical and religious overtones. But above all the grail was systematically elusive: it was the quest for it which became significant rather than the hope of finding it."

In his lecture, *The Perils of*

Trying to Know Too Much, Dr Habgood said he could see the challenge of dimming the equivalent of a biological Mount Everest "because it is there". High-sounding language about the "essence of humanity" confuses the building blocks with the finished product. This confusion can be disastrous, he said.

"The fact that we share 98 per cent of our genes with chimpanzees does not mean that there is only a 2 per

cent difference between being chimpanzee and being human."

Dr Habgood called for more emphasis on the inherent limitations of scientific knowledge. Wide-spread ignorance of science can make isolated statements about doom-laden scenarios particularly alarming, as when the media describe people as living with "inherited genetic time bombs".

TUESDAY MARCH 17 1992

BUSINESS EDITOR JOHN BELL

GUY DRAYTON

June float in London and New York

Offer of shares could value GPA at \$3.5bn

BY GRAHAM SEARJEANT, FINANCIAL EDITOR

GPA Group, the Irish company built from nothing by Tony Ryan to become the world's biggest aircraft leasing organisation, has started the clock for a three-centre international public offer in June that could value it at about \$3.5 billion.

Share listings are planned in New York, London, Dublin, and eventually Tokyo.

GPA, which accounts in dollar, manages a fleet of 392 aircraft, which have a weighted average age of only 3.7 years and are placed with 100 airlines around the world. Its forward buying accounts for about 10 per cent of the world's commercial passenger aircraft orders. GPA makes more than half its profit selling aircraft with

operating leases to third-party investors. The flotation has been planned to raise new funds, possibly between \$500 million and \$700 million, and to allow some of the group's institutional shareholders, including Air Canada and Aer Lingus, to sell part of their holdings. The total public offer, aimed mainly at financial institutions, could reach \$1 billion.

As part of a management shake-up, Maurice Foley, who was due to step down as president of GPA in October to become a non-executive deputy chairman, is instead to become chief executive. Dr Ryan, GPA's chairman since 1985, has been chief executive since founding the company in 1975. His contract expires in 1994, but he has

agreed to remain as chairman until mid-1996, when he reaches the age of 60. Sir John Harvey-Jones, also a deputy chairman, said the changes were designed to separate the roles of chairman and chief executive.

The listing plan is something of a coup for Nomura International, the Japanese house, which is to be global co-ordinator for the three-centre offer and lead manager in Japan, continental Europe and other territories outside the British Isles and North America. Goldman Sachs and Merrill Lynch will lead the sale in America, and Schroders in Britain and Ireland, where BZW and Davy Stockbrokers will act as brokers.

Dr Ryan, who, like Mr Foley, was an Aer Lingus executive, set the company up as Guinness Peat Aviation with backing from Guinness Peat, the former banking and commodities group, using tax advantages then available for being based at Shannon in the west of Ireland. Since then, GPA has built a register of big shareholders, including Mitsubishi Trust, Prudential of America, Irish Life, the Long-Term Credit Bank of Japan and Citicorp.

Among politicians and businessmen wooed to Dr Ryan's board are Garret FitzGerald, former Irish prime minister, Nigel Lawson, the former Chancellor, and Peter Sutherland, formerly Ireland's EC Commissioner.

GPA shares have been traded privately for several years, but the flotation will confirm that the enterprise



Reflecting on frozen salaries: Christopher Davidge, managing director of Christie's, yesterday

Dividend hammered as Christies plummets

BY COLIN CAMPBELL

LORD Carrington, chairman of Christie's International, believes auction sales have now stabilised.

After 1991 sales fell to just above half 1990 levels, pre-tax profits plunged from £43.1 million to £6.36 million for the year to December.

The group yesterday cut its final dividend from 6p to 1p, leaving shareholders with a total 3.3p (8.3p) a share, the first time in 19 years as a listed company that Christie's dividend has been uncovered by net earnings, down from 14.43p to 2.12p a share. In the stock market, the shares fell 12p to 115p.

Lord Carrington said in 1991 only 61 lots were sold for more than \$1 million each, compared with 143 in 1990 and 222 in 1989. The year's most valuable items sold were Titian's *Venus and Adonis* (£7.48 million) and *Racehorses* by Edgar Degas (£6.05 million). A portrait by Hans Holbein, *A Lady with a Squirrel and a Starling*, belonging to the Marquess of Cholmondeley is due for auction shortly, and could realise £15 million.

Operating costs were cut 14 per cent to £101 million and employees reduced by 12 per cent. For the second year running there was a salary freeze for all directors, including Lord Carrington and Christopher Davidge, the managing director, and for senior personnel.

Lord Carrington said Christie's, because of the international nature of its operations, should be largely unaffected by the outcome of the general election. There had been some "positive" impact for Christie's from the financial problems of "names" at Lloyd's, but that Japanese buyers had all but withdrawn.

Lord Carrington said he sensed, however, that the market could soon improve because knowledgeable collectors were beginning to think that the "floor" had been reached.

Nikkei hits lowest close in five years

FROM JOANNA PITMAN IN TOKYO

THE Tokyo stock market's Nikkei index closed below the 20,000 mark yesterday for the first time in five years, prompting quiet pessimism rather than panic in markets that have been expecting such a fall.

Closing yesterday at 19,837.16, down 618.9, the Nikkei index has lost nearly half its value since an economic boom sent the market soaring to a 38,915.87 peak in December 1989.

Analysts in Tokyo believe there is no reason why the market should not fall further over the next few weeks, given the lack of domestic institutional buying power in the run up to the fiscal year-end. But the decisions of foreign investors, particularly American and British pension fund managers, the only major buying force in the market over the last 14 months, could be crucial to the Tokyo market in the next few weeks.

Garth Evans, of the equity sales department at Baring Securities in Tokyo, said: "Foreigners bought ¥5.6 trillion in the Tokyo stock market last year on the premise that the Japanese economy

would improve and that the Nikkei would be supported at the 20,000 level. Both have failed. If foreigners become net sellers and domestic institutions fail to take up the slack, the Nikkei will tumble very fast. The next few weeks will be critical."

Economic factors, at least until the end of the fiscal year, are doing nothing to lure foreign investors into the market, although they remained the strongest net buyers during January and February. Domestically, selling pressure vastly exceeds buying pressure because financial and other corporations are selling stock to realise losses and institutional buying power will not be available until after the year end.

Tsunomiu Hana, the finance minister, said the economy was sound and no new stimulus was necessary, dismissing expectations of an official discount rate cut. Yasushi Mieno, the Bank of Japan governor, also dismissed such expectations. The yen fell to ¥134.30 against the dollar.

Wall Street, page 22

Ex-Farr chief on pension theft charges

BY OUR CITY STAFF

GERALD Smith, former chief executive of Farr Group, appeared in Bow Street Magistrates Court in central London yesterday facing 14 charges that allege he stole £1.2 million from the company's pension fund.

Mr Smith, aged 36, was remanded on bail of two bonds of £50,000 on condition that he live in his home in Islington, north London, and tells the police about any travel plans.

The charges follow an investigation by the Serious Fraud Office into Farr, a construction company in Westbury, Wiltshire, which went into liquidation in December 1990.

Mr Smith is accused of stealing a cheque worth £990,000 from the trustees of the Farr Group Pension Fund in September 1989.

He is also alleged to have stolen 9,000 Hanson shares, 4,500 BAA shares, 6,000 Barclays Bank shares, 6,500 J Sainsbury shares and 2,800 shares in the Ladbroke Group, as well as gifts worth £16,800 from the company's pension fund between January and February 1990. All the charges are being brought under the 1968 Theft Act.

Markets quiet on Labour proposals

BY NEIL BENNETT

FINANCIAL markets reacted quietly to the Labour party budget proposals yesterday. The pound rose slightly and the FT-SE 100 index fell 5.3 points to close at 2,470.7.

Confirmation by John Smith, the shadow chancellor, that Labour is still committed to move sterling into the narrow band of the exchange-rate mechanism was said by foreign exchange dealers to have helped steady the pound in the foreign exchange markets.

The pound rose nearly three-quarters of a cent in light trading to reach \$1.7170 at the official 4pm close. By lunchtime in New York it had rallied to \$1.7205. Against the mark it was almost unchanged to close at DM2.8579. The trade-weighted index gained 0.2 to 89.9.

Economists said they were suspicious of Labour's financial plans because of the lack

of forecasts in Mr Smith's announcements. They were disappointed that he made no forecasts of government borrowing. Some expect the PSBR to rise sharply in 1993 from the government forecast of £28 billion.

Kevin Darlington, from UBS Phillips & Drew, said that the alternative budget had failed to convince investors that Labour would not devalue sterling if the economy failed to recover.

Gerard Lyons, chief economist from DKB International, said investors were giving Labour's economic plans the benefit of the doubt. Mr Smith's proposals stood up well against Norman Lamont's Budget last week. Gold climbed to its lowest London close for six years, by \$4.85 to \$342.25, on nervousness ahead of the reform referendum in South Africa.

Stock market, page 22

Perrier shares ruling opens way for Nestlé

BY WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU

NESTLÉ, the Swiss food group, and Banque Indosuez enjoyed a significant boost in the battle to gain control of Perrier when a Paris court yesterday sequestered a 13.8 per cent block of shares owned by an ally of Italy's Agnelli family. For the Agnelli, the court decision amounted to their second consecutive legal setback.

Earlier this month, a court in Nîmes suspended the one-third stake in Perrier held by Exor, an investment and property vehicle indirectly

controlled by the Agnelli and the largest shareholder in the famous French mineral water company.

The two court rulings have cleared the way for an open battle, with Nestlé expected to move first with an improved bid. Both Nestlé/Indosuez and Exor are bidding Fr1,475 each for shares in Perrier, valuing the whole group at Fr13.3 billion.

The Paris stock market responded to the court verdict by marking up Perrier shares Fr15 to Fr16.51.

Ryan: founder

has made many millionaires in Ireland. Senior management and employees still own or have rights to about 15 per cent, which, depending on the flotation price, is likely to be worth about \$450 million. This includes about 8 per cent owned by Dr Ryan and his family.

The flotation was planned for last year but put off because of the Gulf war.

GPA's after-tax profits, which grew to \$242 million in the year to March 1990, edged up to \$262 million last year and fell 12 per cent in the first half of the current financial year. But the group made record quarterly profits of \$73 million in the three months to end-December.

Comment, page 23

Tempos, page 22

High-flyers learn to mind their language

FROM SEAN MAC CARTHAIGH IN SPA, BELGIUM

THE head of a German financial group looked up a split second too late. As the authorities swished into the room the banker was caught red-handed: fraternising with an Australian diplomat and a London businessman.

There was no point begging for mercy: their conversation had been in English, not French, so corrective measures would follow.

They were in a beautiful mansion outside the town of Spa. Many residents dream of escape, but they all serve out their time. They are volunteers.

The residential language courses run by CERAN are based on a concept of total immersion. For the high-flyers who sign up, it means a gruelling 66 hours of listening and speaking a foreign tongue in any five-day period. Breakfast with the teach-



ers and other students is at 8 am. No room for the morning groggy here; it is time to practice asking for the basic food on the table to be passed along, or starve.

Then it is off to the classroom for a lesson specifically designed for each person's professional needs. There is a coffee at 10.30 with the teachers, and then it is into the supervised language laboratory for another 90 minutes. Lunch, audio-visual lessons, tea-break, an individual lesson and dinner fol-

low, with teachers ensuring that only the "target language" is used.

On the roof is a little nest of satellite dishes, allowing CERAN to receive television broadcasts from dozens of countries. Each evening, after dinner, students watch the appropriate news broadcast. Then comes a discussion, carefully guided by instructors, and, mercifully, bedtime.

The school was started in 1975 by René and Monique Bastin. Both returned to

their native Spa from Burundi, where he was an education inspector and she had been a teacher.

Dirk Van Nieuwenborgh, the director, said: "Time is precious to the type of people who come here, so we promise them the maximum progress in the minimum time." He can say the same thing in four other languages.

At present, the most popular languages are English and French, with German a close third. CERAN also provides immersion courses in Dutch, Spanish and Italian.

Mr Van Nieuwenborgh is reluctant to promise that the centre can bring a student from no knowledge of a language to fluency in a week. For Japanese executives, three weeks of hardship are often necessary for even basic conversation in a European language. If anything, he is erring on the side of caution. It might be like an open prison, but it works.

DELTA

CABLES • ENGINEERING • CIRCUIT PROTECTION • INDUSTRIAL SERVICES

	1991	1990
Turnover	774.0	793.6
Profit before tax	65.8	87.2
Earnings per share	28.0p	35.7p
Ordinary dividend	14.0p	14.0p

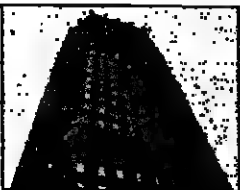
POSITIONED FOR THE 90s...

Copies of the Annual Report & Accounts for the year ended 28th December 1991, from which the above is an extract, are available from 25th March from the Secretary, Delta plc, 1 Kingway, London WC2B 6XF. Telephone 071-836 3535.

● BUSINESS NEWS 19-25
● SPORT 26-30

TODAY IN BUSINESS

BIGGER RANG



Peter Rawlins, chief executive, wants to broaden ownership of the Stock Exchange by selling shares to investment institutions and the public at large
Page 23

LEAN MIX

Rugby Group, which makes one fifth of British cement, suffered a profits fall in 1991
Page 21

WINDFALL



Martin Sorrell enjoyed a windfall \$15 million profit at WPP from so-called golden parachutes which did not open
Page 21

ALL DOWN

IMI and Delta, two key British engineering groups, both suffered profits falls in 1991
Page 21

DRIVING SEAT



Robert Eaton has been poached from General Motors to succeed the legendary Lee Iacocca at Chrysler
Page 21

THE POUND

US dollar 1.7170 (+0.0058)
German mark 2.8579 (+0.0036)
Exchange index 89.9 (+0.2)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share 1930.9 (-4.9)
FT-SE 100 2470.7 (-5.3)
New York Dow Jones 3222.27 (-13.64)
Tokyo Nikkei Ave 19837.16 (-618.90)

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base: 10%
3-month interbank 10 1/4-10 5/8%
3-month eligible bills: 10 1/4-10 3/4%
US: Prime Rate 6 1/2%
Federal Funds 4 1/4%
3-month Treasury Bills 4.06-4.08%
30-year bonds 9 1/4-9 5/8%

CURRENCIES

London: New York:
£ \$1.7164 £ \$1.7155
£ DM2.8578 £ DM1.6655
£ Sfr12.5874 £ Sfr11.5106
£ FFfr7.028 £ FFfr6.550
£ Yen229.99 £ Yen133.93
ECU £0.714865 SDR £0.795950
£ ECU1.399865 £ SDR1.259518

London: New York:
£ \$1.7164 £ \$1.7155
£ DM2.8578 £ DM1.6655
£ Sfr12.5874 £ Sfr11.5106
£ FFfr7.028 £ FFfr6.550
£ Yen229.99 £ Yen133.93
ECU £0.714865 SDR £0.795950
£ ECU1.399865 £ SDR1.259518

GOLD

London Fixing:
AM \$348.75 pm \$343.00
close \$342.30-342.80 (£199.50-200.01)
New York:
Comex \$342.75-343.25

NORTH SEA OIL

Brant (Apr) \$17.85 bbl (\$17.85)

RETAIL PRICES

RPI: 135.6 January (1987=100)
* Denotes midday trading price

Eurobank and Air France buy Czech airline stake

BY OUR EUROPEAN BUSINESS CORRESPONDENT

THE European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and Air France will take a 20 per cent stake each in Československé Aerolinie (CSA), Czechoslovakia's national airline.

The deal is the largest equity investment and the 17th investment in all undertaken by the European Bank. The share sale forms part of the Czechoslovak federal government's programme for the privatisation of state-owned enterprises.

Like other eastern European airlines, most of CSA's aircraft were built in the former Soviet Union and are considered technically out of date.

The equity investment is part of a programme to raise sufficient cash to bring CSA closer to western standards. Under the agreement, the European Bank and Air



Jacques Attali: not involved in the deal

France, in conjunction with La Caisse des Dépôts, the French savings bank, will each invest 23 million euros (£16.5 million) in the form of new equity.

The Czechoslovak National Property Fund will hold 40 per cent and other Czechoslovak institutions will hold the remaining 20 per cent of the

equity. The agreement marks the first significant western equity investment in an eastern European airline, after Treuhand, the German privatisation agency, failed in its attempt to rescue Interflug, the former East German state airline.

East Europe's airline business is widely considered to present strong growth prospects, but investors are sometimes deterred because of the large-scale investments needed to make an east European air carrier commercially viable.

CSA serves 52 destinations in 40 countries, with a growing amount of revenue stemming from services to western Europe.

The bank said that the deal was spearheaded by Ron Freeman, vice-president, and did not involve Jacques Attali, its president, to avoid a possible conflict of interest, since Air France is headed by Bernard Attali, his twin brother.

Natural gas deal agreed with China

FROM LULU YU IN HONG KONG

A JOINT Hong Kong-American venture is set to become the first importer of natural gas from offshore southern China, boosting a Chinese oil and resources industry full of potential but lacking technical skill.

China Light and Power and Exxon Energy have agreed to buy the gas from Hainan Island for 20 years, starting in 1996. The gas will be transported to the colony via an underwater pipeline.

Including building of the plant and the purchase of gas, the project will cost HK\$30 billion (£2.27 billion). The publicly-listed company, controlled by the Kadoorie family, last week renewed its 15-year franchise with the government to supply electricity until 2008, making it the first utility to clinch a state-approved contract that straddles the 1997 sovereignty handover.

JIB beats forecasts with £20m profit

BY NEIL BENNETT

JIB Group, the insurance broker that was floated last November, has beaten forecasts with a pre-tax profit of £20.1 million for last year, up a third, after a record contribution from its reinsurance division.

The profit was £400,000 higher than the group's forecast at the time of its flotation, despite a sharp fall in American earnings. JIB is paying its first dividend of 5p, as forecast, and said it would have paid a total of 7.5p in dividends if it had been a public company all year.

JIB, a majority-owned subsidiary of Jardine Matheson, the Hong Kong trading group, has bought a 27 per cent stake in SIACI, a French broker, to expand into continental Europe. The deal was a share swap in which SIACI and its shareholders took 6 per cent of JIB. John Barton, JIB's chief executive, said the link-up is already producing additional business.

Most of the increase in JIB's profits came from interest of £2.6 million earned on the £50 million cash injection made by Jardine Matheson last June. Mr Barton said the group now has net cash of more than £70 million and is looking for acquisitions in Britain, Europe and the Far East.

JIB's flotation was three times oversubscribed, at 195p, last autumn. Since then, market concerns about the insurance broking sector have depressed the company's shares, which fell 2p to 185p yesterday.

The broker's reinsurance



Facing the challenge: John Barton, head of JIB

division increased profits 22 per cent to £10.7 million. Reinsurance premiums rose sharply last year and capacity fell due to the many natural catastrophes in 1990.

Mr Barton stressed that the profits were exceptional and unlikely to be repeated this year.

By contrast, retail broking profits from America fell 34 per cent to £2.58 million because of recession, falling premiums and low interest

rates. JIB has responded by closing or selling seven of its American branch interests, which raised \$9 million and made an extraordinary profit of £402,000. Those businesses broke even last year on a \$16 million turnover.

Mr Barton predicted that 1992 would be a challenging year because of the continuation of recession in many parts of the world and the uncertainties surrounding Lloyd's.

Trust in US lifts Alliance

Alliance Trust, the Dundee investment trust, beat the FT All-Share index by more than 5 per cent in the year to end-January, spurred by the strong performance of Wall Street.

Net assets increased 24 per cent to £15.39 a share, compared with a rise of 16.5 per cent in the index. Pre-tax revenue gained 6 per cent to £30.6 million and the trust is increasing its final dividend by 2p to 29p to make 43p for the year, up 7.5 per cent.

The trust attributed its success to its holdings in America, where almost a third of the assets are invested.

Stronger fabric helps Mayborn

Mayborn Group increased pre-tax profits 75 per cent last year, helped by a strong recovery in margins in the fabric dyes division. Pre-tax profits rose from £1.6 million to £2.7 million, lifting earnings from 7.4p a share to 10.1p. The dividend rises from 3.8p a share to 4.2p, with a final of 2.8p (2.5p).

Operating profits of £3.4 million were up 28 per cent on turnover only 9 per cent higher at £33 million.

BPP advances against odds

Although the Gulf war and the recession affected its best-known business, the Linguarama language school, BPP Holdings managed a rise in pre-tax profits from £5.2 million to £6.4 million in the year to end-December.

Shareholders, who put up a further £12.4 million in a one-for-four rights issue in April to fund further expansion, are rewarded with a final dividend of 4.5p, lifting the total from 6.3p to 6.9p.

Medeva buys

Medeva, the niche pharmaceuticals business chaired by Bernard Taylor, formerly chief executive of Glaxo, is adding to its range of specialist brands with the purchase of the worldwide rights for two hepatitis B products, a vaccine and a treatment, for a total of £9.26 million. A sum of £3.86 million is payable immediately and the balance will depend on further successful development work.

Metalrax up

Metalrax Group, the engineering specialists, achieved a record pre-tax profit of £7.21 million (£7.13 million) in the year to end-December — the sixteenth year in a row of record profits. For the 23rd consecutive year, there is a one-for-ten bonus issue. A 2.9p final (2.58p) makes 3.9p (3.49p) for the year.

Intercare deal

Intercare Group, the health-care products concern, has conditionally agreed to buy Birmingham Optical Group for a maximum profit-related £4.33 million in cash and shares. Intercare is raising a further £3.52 million through a share placing and a one-for-4.6950 offer at 125p. The shares have been conditionally placed with institutional investors. Existing shares rose 2p to 141p.

WPP paints a picture of gloom

MAI m interim

at West

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MTM asks auditor for report

BY MARTIN BARROW

SHARES IN MTM fluctuated wildly after the specialist chemicals company gave warning that it may be unable to publish its delayed financial results for 1991 on March 31 as promised.

Donald Mackay, appointed caretaker chairman last week after the sudden departure of Richard Lines, founder of the company, said the restructured board has asked BDO Binder Hamlyn, MTM's auditor, to report on the financial impact of proposed changes in accounting policies.

A shortfall in profits is expected because of the changes ordered by the auditor, which is taking a tougher view of the valuation of fixed assets. However, one week after warning shareholders of the likely result of the revaluation, Mr Lines revealed that trading in 1991 failed to match City expectations. One day later he and Tom Baxter, finance director, tendered their resignation.

The latest statement sent MTM shares reeling from 70p to 55p, although they promptly rebounded to 84p with market-makers focusing on weekend takeover speculation. The shares were worth 280p late last month.

Bérégovoy urges interest rate cuts

BY WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU

THE French finance minister, Pierre Bérégovoy, has called for lower European Community interest rates and enhanced co-ordination of monetary and fiscal policies among members.

His comments reflect strains in the exchange-rate mechanism caused by Germany's high interest rate policy as the rest of the community slides towards recession. His demands are likely to be ignored at the German Bundesbank, which seems determined to pursue its policy of tight money for most of this year.

The German authorities reject the concept of Community procedures to co-ordinate monetary policy, at least before the introduction of a single currency in 1997 at the earliest.

In an interview with *La Tribune de l'Expansion*, the French financial daily newspaper, M Bérégovoy said: "The aim of this international co-ordination is that each country does what it is in a position to accept without destroying its macroeconomic performance. A temporary deficit in response to a short-run economic situation is acceptable as long as it remains under control." Interest rates

were too high and they needed to be cut "first of all at the European level".

The German government, under pressure from the Bundesbank, rejects the notion of a formal decision-making community level until the arrival of the single currency. The Maastricht treaty has accepted this position and, despite M Bérégovoy's call, the decision-making process in monetary and fiscal policy will remain at the national level.

The ability of other community countries to lower their rates is constrained by Germany's policy to keep interest rates high in order to counteract strong growth in the domestic money supply.



Bérégovoy: call to EC

COMPANY NEWS IN BRIEF

ISA INTNL (Fin)
Pre-tax: £2.12m (£2.83m)
EPS: 4.31p (5.84p)
Div: 0.951p, mkg 1.385p

Last year's total dividend was 1.286p. Turnover rose to £78.4m (£71.4m), with strong German contribution. Gearing below 10%.

ANTOFAGASTA HLDS
Pre-tax: £19.2m (£29.3m)
EPS: 50.2p (76p)
Div: 13p, mkg 19p

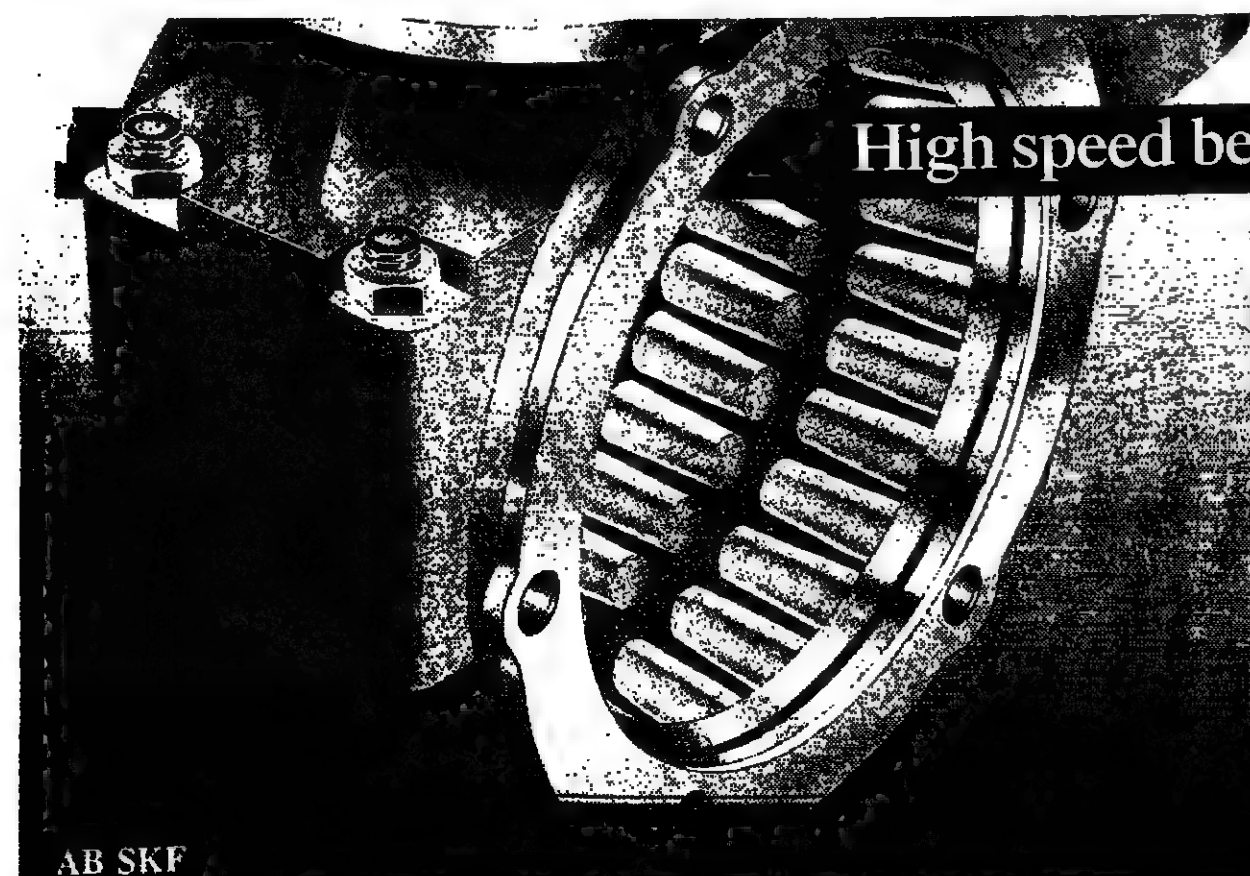
Final results. Last year's total dividend was 19p. Strong results from railways reduced impact of lower copper prices.

HONEYBUCKLE GP (Int)
Pre-tax: £580,000
EPS: 4.7p (1.5p)
Div: Nil (nil)

Last year's interim profit was £243,000. The company expects to pay a dividend for the full year. Growth prospects excellent.

NEEDLER GP (Fin)
Pre-tax: £51.74m (£6.86m)
EPS: 3.4 cents
Div: 4.5 cents

Total dividend is 7 cents. Last year's EPS was 4.2 cents. The dividend was 10.54 cents. Gradual improvement likely this year.



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1991 SKF Group Results

For SKF, 1991 was characterised by a number of extensive measures to adapt the Group to a considerably reduced level of demand. This programme of measures will strengthen the Group's competitiveness and provide a sound base for the anticipated upswing in 1993. Consolidated result after financial income and expense amounted to -221 million Swedish kronor (-21m) in 1991, compared with SEK 1,770m (£107m) in the preceding year. Group sales

amounted to SEK 26,302m (£2,470m) compared with SEK 27,766m (£2,644m) during the same period.

The group made a net loss for the year of SEK 1,177m (£111m), compared with income of SEK 1,014m (£97m) in 1990. SEK 97m (£9m) was attributable to losses from Ovako. The Group used business company. This was charged against SKF Group income for the year and includes SEK 500m (£47m) for estimated losses in 1992 of Ovako Profil AB, and the closing down of its operations.

Among positive developments for 1992 are new delivery agreements in the automotive, railway and aircraft sectors, with major manufacturers in the U.S., Europe and South Korea.

A dividend of SEK 4.25 (40p) per share is proposed, which is unchanged from 1991. For a copy of the 1991 Annual report, please contact SKF Group Public Affairs, S-415-01 Gothenburg, Sweden. Tel: +46-31-373101.

Average rate of exchange for 1991: 1 GBP = 10.65 SEK.

SKF

WPP paints a picture of gloom

By MARTIN WALLER

WPP Group, the world's biggest advertising and marketing group, which is chaired by Martin Sorrell, will have to go back to its bankers for more cash this year to steer the business through the recession if gloomy internal forecasts are borne out.

WPP's own budgets for 1992 assume no significant recovery in the market, revenues at best only slightly improved on 1991 and unchanged costs. "If this proves to be accurate, bank covenants will have to be adjusted and further cash facilities negotiated," the company said.

Pre-tax profits for the year to end-December fell from £90 million to £56.1 million, net revenues were 4.7 per cent lower at £1,204 million and there is again no dividend on the ordinary or preference shares. The figure was at the top end of City expectations but has been inflated by an unexpected exceptional item of £17.7 million.

The shares reacted by falling 14p to 81p, having climbed from 51p since just before Christmas. Neil Blackley, media analyst at James Capel, said he had cut his forecast for 1992 profits before tax to £45 million from £61 million, adding that any improvement was dependent on economic recovery.

A raft of exceptional provisions, including property write-offs and reorganisation and rationalisation costs, was offset by a £34.5 million gain from the release of earlier provisions taken during WPP's breakneck acquisition programme during the late Eighties. Up to £15 million of this relates to money set aside for "golden parachutes" to pay off executives, including those at the giant J Walter Thompson and Ogilvy & Mather agencies. The pay-offs were subsequently not needed, says WPP.

Year-end debt rose by £24 million to £334 million after £21 million was paid out to vendors of some of the businesses acquired on long earn-outs. Another £70 million, £38 million in cash, will be needed by the end of 1992.

The group traded within its covenants in 1991, and long-term projections suggest financial needs can be met and dividend payments eventually resumed. But WPP says that, depending on when and how strong the recovery will be, debt repayments due next year may need renegotiation, and it is in regular talks with the banks.

Extra cash needed this year could be as high as \$100 million to tide the group over cash flow problems. WPP may consider selling the Scala McCabe Sloves agency, which has been on the market, in one form or another, for five years, and the flotation of the market-research business or the Japanese and south-east Asian interests. In total these would fetch some \$200 million, WPP believes.



Soft landing: Sorrell says WPP did not need \$15m provisions to pay for 'golden parachutes' in the US

Suter sees profits drop to £17.8m

By MATTHEW BOND

SUTER, the industrial conglomerate chaired by David Abell, has made a £4.1 million provision against the value of its 22.4 per cent stake in Harisons Group, the loss-making plastic film distributor, which has passed its latest two dividends.

The writedown to current market value has been included as an extraordinary item in Suter's results for last year, because the Suter board considers the fall in value is permanent. Suter first bought into Harisons in 1989, having identified it as a recovery situation.

The £2.2 million cost of Suter's long-running and ultimately unsuccessful legal action against Francis Industries and its professional advisers, concerning profit forecasts at the time Francis was acquired in 1984, is also taken as an extraordinary item, taking total provisions below the line to £5.3 million.

Following the extraordinary costs, the payment of

an unchanged final dividend of 5.6p to give a maintained total payout of 8.8p required the transfer of £3.8 million from reserves.

Pre-tax profits in 1991 declined 25.8 per cent to £17.8 million, although lower trading profits of £22.2 million included £1.5 million of restructuring costs. Earnings per share fell 30 per cent to 10.5p. In the past-18 months the company has shed about 20 per cent of its workforce, some 600 jobs.

Mr Abell said he was encouraged by a 7.4 per cent increase in second-half trading profits to £10.2 million. He pointed out that the group's distribution, industrial and chemicals businesses now contributed 99 per cent of trading profits, with sales of surplus properties and investment now "insignificant" in terms of profits.

During the year net borrowings fell by £7.2 million to £33.6 million, giving a gearing level of 74 per cent.

Chrysler poaches boss from GM

FROM PHILIP ROBINSON IN NEW YORK

A SUCCESSOR to Lee Iacocca, the legendary Chrysler car chairman, has been poached from General Motors and was named yesterday as Robert Eaton. Mr Eaton, aged 52, has headed GM's European operations for the past four years and is credited with building some of the best profits on car sales in the world.

His immediate appointment is as vice-chairman and chief operating officer of the loss-making Chrysler, but he will succeed Mr Iacocca, aged 67, when he retires as chairman at the end of this year.

Mr Eaton is expected to join on a multi-million dollar salary whose details will be disclosed at the annual meeting in May. But industry executives say the appointment of an outsider could cause morale problems among Chrysler executives.

Beaten to the top office was Robert Lutz, aged 60, Chrysler president, whose relations

with Mr Iacocca have been strained. Mr Eaton is a nuts and bolts man who has been with General Motors all his working life. He has a degree in mechanical engineering and joined Chevrolet in 1969 as a graduate in training. He moved to management administration in 1969, was made a vice-president in 1982 and took over GM Europe six years later.

Mr Iacocca said yesterday: "Since going into Europe, Bob is making 25 per cent more cars with 10 per cent fewer men. He is making an enviable 9 per cent return. Bob Eaton has impeccable credentials and an incredibly successful track record at General Motors. He obviously made a tremendous impression on our directors and on me personally."

Mr Eaton said: "I'm very, very happy to be at Chrysler. I also understand the global auto market is going to be awful tough in the years ahead."

IMI dives 36% as demand for titanium slides

By DEREK HARRIS, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

FULL-YEAR profits at IMI, the international engineering group, of Birmingham, slid 36 per cent to £73.3 million with only the American market showing signs of recovery. The total dividend is held at 10p, covered one-and-a-half times.

Gary Allen, chief executive, said that, in the UK, IMI had endured a tough year. The earliest that the recession seemed likely to ease was at the end of this year. "We are bumping along the bottom in the UK and it's a very bumpy bottom," he said.

Annual trading profits at its UK operations, which are 55 per cent of turnover, plunged to £32.8 million (£78.2 million). Profits were most affected by a steep decline in demand for titanium as military aircraft building cutbacks were compounded by slackening civil aircraft sales. The refined and wrought metals division made a trading loss of £2 million (£24 million profit).

Trading profits in hydraulics fell nearly a third to £22.2 million. Mr Allen said: "We had expected a more recession-proof performance but that was before the depth, length and worldwide nature of the recession was fully appreciated." It was a "relatively good year" in America as the economy picked up slowly but demand in Germany fell quickly in the second half and in the UK remained flat.

For titanium, IMI is pinning its hopes on higher civil aircraft production, particularly from Boeing, but Sandy Morris, engineering analyst at County NatWest WoodMac, said: "With titanium it could be not just a short-term demand problem but one of chronic overcapacity." It was possible that, over the next months, more aircraft orders could be cancelled or deferred. It is estimated that titanium price and volume have fallen at least 25 per cent.

Current year pre-tax profits of about £80 million are fore-

cast in the City. Although the UK copper tube market tube was poor as building still suffered, with commercial property construction falling markedly in the second half, IMI increased market share in Europe.

In Germany IMI's local production is at full stretch mainly through reconstruction work in the East. IMI's trading profits in building products fell less than 10 per cent to £20.7 million.

In drinks dispensing, where IMI is the leading world manufacturer, trading profits were unchanged at nearly £23 million. Mr Allen said that, overall IMI had achieved a resilient performance backed by a strong balance sheet. Sir Eric Pountain, the chairman, said gearing rose to only 22 per cent despite capital spending of £50 million and £42 million on acquisitions.

Delta holds payout after lower profit

By MATTHEW BOND

DELTA Group, the cables and engineering group, has reported a 24.5 per cent fall in pre-tax profits to £65.8 million. But a maintained 9.8p final gives an unchanged total of 14p. Dr Robert Eaton, chief executive, said 1991 had proved even tougher than 1990. As yet, he said, 1992 had shown little sign of any upturn.

Worst hit was the company's British cables business, where pre-tax profits fell from £31 million to £15.1 million. "Recession, the privatisation of the regional electricity companies and the entry of some new European players into the British market all contributed to the situation," said Dr Eaton. But demand from continental Europe lifted engineering profits 14 per cent to £22.5 million.

Times, page 22

Wilson Bowden slows

By MATTHEW BOND

WILSON Bowden, the house-builder and property group that last autumn bucked the sector's trend with a rise in first-half profits, failed to maintain the momentum for the rest of 1991. Pre-tax profits fell 7.6 per cent to £27.8 million, despite a 5.3 per cent increase in sales to £135.9 million.

David Wilson, chairman, described the results as "modest", given the depressed market, but the shares gave up 10p to 430p in initial response.

Last March, the company raised £34.1 million through a rights issue, enabling it to finish 1991 with no borrowings, despite £24 million of acquisitions that expanded its land bank by the year-end from 6,200 plots to 7,900 plots with planning permission. The company said since the year-end the balance of the rights issue proceeds had been committed. Shareholders' funds were £157 million.

Mr Wilson said the second half had failed to produce the hoped-for recovery in the housing market, which made him reluctant to predict whether it would arrive this year. "No recovery appeared and we still await the return of solid customer confidence. I must be cautious about the current conditions and immediate prospects - there have been too many false dawns," Mr Wilson said, adding that the year would remain difficult.

David Wilson Homes, the company's housebuilding business, sold 1,324 houses last year, a 5 per cent increase on 1990. The average selling price rose from £79,000 to £80,000, despite what Mr Wilson described as "severe pressure" and "heavy discounting".

Operating profits from housebuilding were £21.5 million on £105.9 million of sales, giving a margin of 20.2 per cent. Property development contributed an operating profit of £6.7 million on sales of £30 million.

The final dividend is increased to 6.2p (5.9p) to give a total of 8.7p (8.3p).

MAI maintains interim payout

By MARTIN BARRON

MAI, the media and financial services group headed by Lord Hollick, the Labour peer, is maintaining its interim dividend at 1.4p a share after returning nearly unchanged profits for the six months to end-December. Pre-tax profits were £30.2 million (£29.6 million), giving earnings of 5.8p (5.7p) a share. "This is a good performance in a recession," said Lord Hollick, who was influential in forming Labour's economic policies. "Market share gains and improved operating efficiencies are being achieved in our core business."

Growth in financial services helped offset lower media and information contributions. Wholesale broking profits were £18.9 million (£16 million), with a strong performance in North America helped by favourable exchange rate movements. Retail financial services made £3.5 million (£3.4 million) despite the severe drop in car sales, which affected demand for motor insurance. Media interests fell to

£500,000 (£3.4 million), reflecting the effects of recession on demand for advertising services. The company owns 61 per cent of Meridian, the consortium that will replace TVS as the independent television franchisees for the South-East. Information services earned £1.2 million (£1.9 million).

Property profits were unchanged at £800,000. The company, which has £100 million in the bank, earned investment income of £5.3 million (£4.1 million) despite lower interest rates.



Hollick influential

Renold finds 'hostile' TT stake

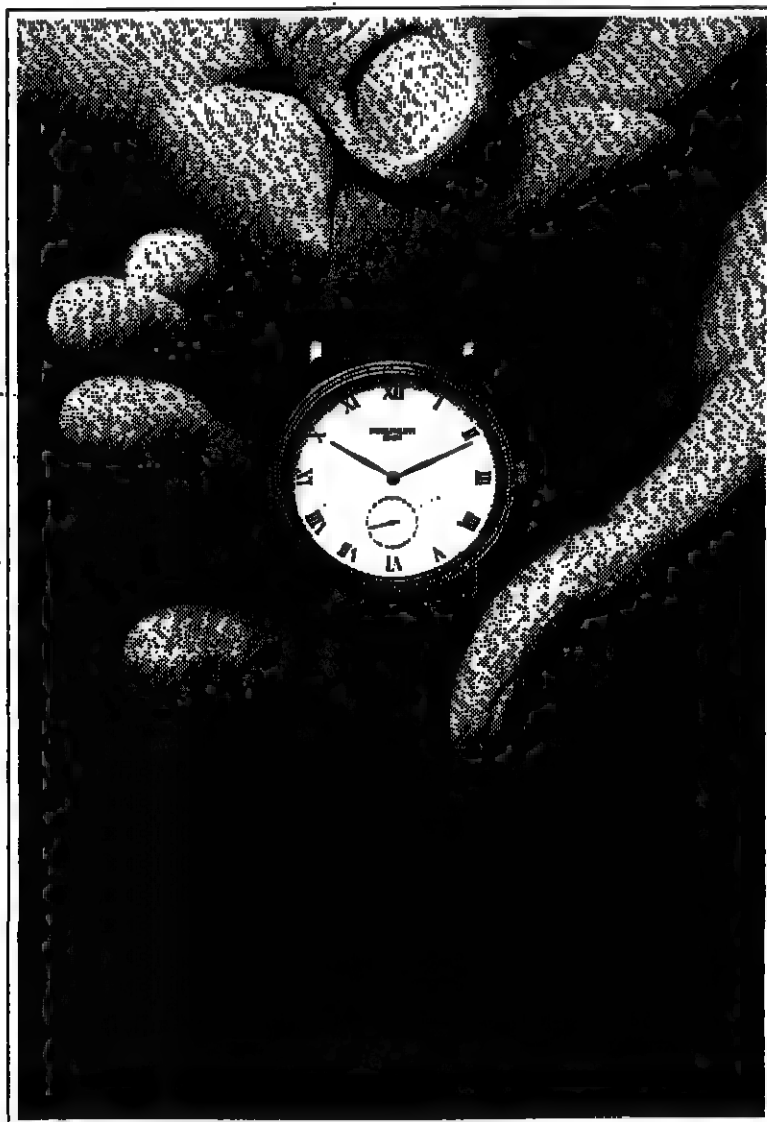
By OUR CITY STAFF

RENOLD, the gear and chain maker, has said that enquiries have turned up a 2.9 per cent stake held by TT Group, the automotive engineer, that the group believes is hostile "in the light of TT's history of unsolicited bids".

The shares jumped 9p to 55p, valuing the company at £36 million, even though Renold also said it expected to report a loss of as much as £2 million before tax and exceptional charges, described as broadly in line with market expectations, for the year to March 28.

Exceptional charges relating to job cuts during the last quarter would amount to no more than £1.5 million, and these and other cost savings would produce significant benefits in the next financial year.

The Renold board said there was no commercial logic in a merger and TT's only interest would be in buying Renold on the cheap. It recommended shareholders to take no action if approached to sell shares. Nicholas Shipp, a director of TT, said the group would seek informal talks with Renold.



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GPA ready to take off at last

The biggest surprise in GPA's long-mooted flotation plans is the about-turn in management changes. The respected Maurice Foley, one of GPA's founding fathers and its long-time president, was to step down as an executive, at 52, in October to be replaced, it was assumed, by Nigel Wilson, the next-generation financial innovator recruited from Stanhope Properties. Instead, Tony Ryan, the creator and chairman, is to withdraw from his main executive role and Mr Foley is to become chief executive. Whatever boardroom talk in Shannon led to this change, it would certainly be a plus for GPA to have all three on board, making a solid management team that now looks the antithesis of a one-man band.

Credibility is vital to GPA, which has grown exponentially in the arcane and widely distrusted business of leasing and depends for profits and cash flow on selling leased aircraft to investors, a concept even more obscure, if only because second-hand aircraft do not yet figure in many ordinary investors' portfolios. Dr Ryan has, however, built the trust and confidence of some of the world's most important financial institutions, as lenders, shareholders and buyers of its aircraft packages. The group's credibility has also gained from its performance in an extremely nasty period of simultaneous shock for the airline and banking industries. Doubters feared GPA might be hit in three directions at once. Japanese and other international bank finance, vital for its order book, could dry up; the airline customers could cancel or default and buyers of aircraft could disappear, causing a slump in prices.

GPA appears to have coped remarkably well, moving to new secure sources of finance, opening new airline markets, placing returned aircraft and finding or creating new investor markets for leased aircraft. After a modest setback, GPA is back into growth. The heavy days when GPA shares traded privately at \$32.50 may not return for a while, but they should attract institutions, at well over \$20, making GPA an important new international stock.

Tokyo turmoil

Tokyo's share index finally made its long-awaited dip below 20,000 yesterday to a background of soothing official assurances that it would not stay there for long. Yet overseas observers of the Japanese markets have for some time been nervous of the move through an important psychological barrier. There is a possibility that panic selling will begin sooner or later. That would raise concern over the Japanese banking system which is permitted to regard part of its unrealised gains on security holdings as permanent capital. The Governor of Japan's central bank yesterday dismissed the idea of an interest rate cut to tempt cash back into a demoralised market. If this is to be taken at face value, the market seems certain to head lower.

Japan's institutional investors are likely to continue selling in order to establish tax losses until the new fiscal year begins on April 1. Foreigners, who have supported Japanese equities for the past 12 months, will see no point in substantial buying programmes until the peak selling season has abated. The authorities have been considering other steps to prop up sagging prices. These include lower taxes on stock transactions and measures to allow companies to purchase their own shares. Introducing them in the face of market weakness might prove counterproductive. The banks would start to be seriously concerned if the Nikkei reached 18,000. The betting is that the central bank will find a sound economic reason for lower interest rates if the index falls that far.

Taking the Stock Exchange from Big Bang to the next millennium

William Kay talks to Peter Rawlins about his plans to sell shares in the Stock Exchange and make it more efficient

Peter Rawlins, the 41-year-old chief executive of the London Stock Exchange, wants to sell shares in the Exchange itself to the public, from the biggest institutional investor to the smallest. "The ownership is very narrow," he said. "There is no question that we shall have to widen it to those who would like to be more directly involved and see a commercial return on their investment."

The London Stock Exchange has already come a long way since 1986, when the hitherto of the Restrictive Practices Court investigation bunched a series of changes in the technical means of trading, the ownership of firms, control of the exchange and the distinction between brokers and jobbers into one Big Bang reform. It has come even further since 1989, when member firms were first allowed limited liability and minority outside shareholders or 1996, when the rule that no firm could have more than 20 partners still sustained several hundred separate firms.

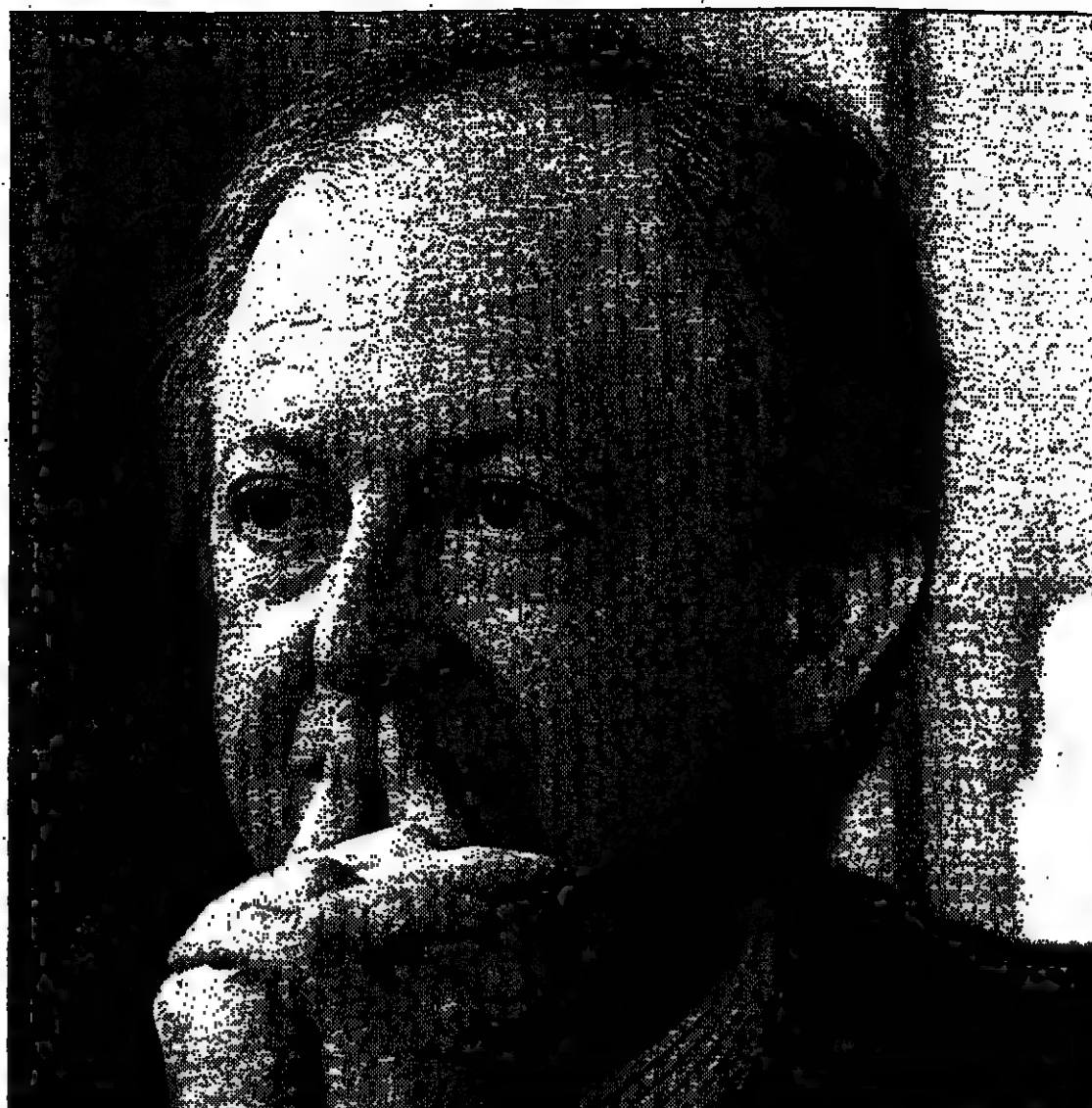
Selling the Exchange itself to outsiders would require drastic changes to its constitution, which currently debars it from acting for profit, or from distributing any profits it happens to make. It would also pave the way for the 22-strong Stock Exchange board to be more evenly composed of suppliers and users of market services.

Mr Rawlins, chief executive since November 1989, sees this as the last great hurdle to making the Exchange more customer-friendly. Closer to home, he also wants the money newcomers might be persuaded to put up to pay for one more huge investment in an electronic infrastructure capable of acting as policeman and referee as well as information provider.

"We'll have to completely rewrite the whole constitution on the back of a re-capitalisation, a refinancing," Mr Rawlins explained. "I describe that as the last big crunch point. I don't think it will happen in the next few months, but I won't consider my job done until that is behind us."

The job he has done so far has been to rattle the mental cages around the Stock Exchange tower, to make its members see that the market has fundamentally changed since the Big Bang deregulation orgy nearly five and a half years ago. During this shakeup, he has also cut the exchange's staff from 3,000 to 1,900. "In my judgment, with hindsight," Mr Rawlins declared, "there was no perception of what the real problems were. There is a quite remarkable propensity to go to the ditch on nomenclature and market theory."

He had another reminder of backwoodsmen's views two weeks ago,



Final hurdle: Peter Rawlins sees a new constitution and single multi-purpose system as his main task

when the formation of the Securities Institute was announced, to act as a representative body for individuals working in the securities industry. It was a logical outcome of the decision to abolish individual membership powers in the exchange six years ago, in return for which each of the then members is entitled to receive £10,000 when he or she retires, or dies. But some brokers think the creation of the institute was reason enough to hand over the money.

Mr Rawlins said: "That was one of the many nettles not grasped in 1986, and we've now done it. It caused a certain amount of heat and little light from certain parts of the community who had never reconciled themselves to the fact that they had given up their individual rights back in 1986. They came round saying 'What about my £10,000?' to which my answer is, 'Dicum meum pactum' — don't blame me, this is the deal you signed in 1986." Such responses do not endear him to the old school, some of whom still feel that the 1986 reforms destroyed the atmosphere in which that Stock Exchange motto really counted, as it had to do as late as the Fifties, when there were no systems and deals were still checked overnight by word of mouth.

The Securities Institute sits alongside the Association of Private Client

Investment Managers, for private client stockbrokers, the British Merchant Banking Association, for the wholesale integrated houses, and the recently announced Proshare, for small shareholders. These are now the created, pressure groups for those different interests, leaving Mr Rawlins and his organisation free to concentrate on what he believes is the Exchange's true task: "To be an efficient clearer of the maximum number of transactions."

Before he can achieve that, Mr Rawlins believes he has to rid the London market of much antiquated baggage that has been the subject of dispute since before South Sea shares were traded in Change Alley 300 years ago. The Exchange's council spent 15 years agonising over the future of the traditional single-capacity system of brokers acting on behalf of customers and jobbers trading as principals, as the demands of international share dealing and the financial squeeze on the shrinking number of jobbers stretched the system ever nearer breaking point.

The action man imported to bring change by Sir Andrew Hugh Smith, the exchange chairman, thinks such agonising over principle has little place in a market driven by technology. He says: "I don't understand why everyone's banging on about

the difference between quote-driven and order-driven systems, because at the end of the day all systems are order-driven. In the sense that, unless and until an order comes into the market, zippo happens."

So this former thespian, son of an opera singer and director of the Oxford Theatre Group when he was at university, sees the painstaking and at times painful attempts at post-Big Bang reform as basically misconceived.

One of the longest-running of these exercises was the Elwes Committee, headed by Nigel Elwes of SG Warburg, which had been in session for a year by the time Mr Rawlins was appointed. It ultimately foundered on the irreconcilable claims of the private client brokers, the foreign securities firms and the integrated houses like Warburg. Mr Rawlins quietly buried it.

"Elwes went in with a formal remit to do with enhancing and bolstering the then pre-existing market-maker system in the domestic equity market," he said. "There was no question of looking at whether there was some other way of making markets or trading — not surprisingly, so soon after Big Bang."

One reason the Elwes committee had such a hard time was that it was

becoming harder to squeeze so many different interest groups into one system, which only shows how much more flexible and accommodating the pre-Big Bang jobbing system had been. But that is one clock that cannot be turned back, at least in the foreseeable future. "Market-making has been one of the massive strengths of the London market," Mr Rawlins observed. "But by their own admission, market-makers don't necessarily want to be out there acting as market-makers in all stocks at all times in all conditions, particularly in rarely traded, relatively small UK securities."

He professes not to mind what system comes in for third-line stocks and small investors, although he thinks that some form of matched-bargain arrangement would probably fit best. As such markets in small stocks outside the exchange have shown, this can be a solution fraught with perils unless it is closely supervised.

Mr Rawlins is more concerned to lift the exchange above these conflicts by creating a neutral electronic infrastructure capable of catering for whatever different systems the market demands. "There will be some tangible spending on modern technology," he said. "This market has made a positive virtue in the last seven or eight years of having incompatible, unconnected, individual systems. The dealing rooms are drowning in kit, and half the reason is that they need lots of different products to get the information they need, to get an order into the market, execute it, confirm it and settle it. Right now, those are all completely separate arrangements. You need just one integrated mechanism to handle all that."

And there is more than a gleam in the eye of the exchange's chief executive at the thought of knitting the horribly expensive and still untried Taurus paperless settlement system directly into this mooted new trading mechanism. Taurus should begin testing in the autumn and be ready to come on stream next spring — if everybody is happy and enough companies have changed their articles to abolish share certificates.

If Taurus works, in tandem with a central computer to log trades, it could provide a powerful tool for monitoring the market. That would take Mr Rawlins a long way to another of his ambitions, to wrest back from the Securities and Futures Authority some of the regulatory responsibility the exchange used to have before the Financial Services Act.

"With an integrated market transaction approach," he explained, "we will by definition, as market operator and supervisor, know what bargains have been dealt and what settled. We could, as a service to the market, make sure everyone knows who's exposed to whom and to what amount at any time. There is no such capability at the moment."

He reluctantly concedes that lack of political will and entrenched empires may make his dream take longer to be realised than the flick of a switch on the huge computerised watchdog he is busily designing.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Rush job

CARRÉ Orban & Partners, the Swiss head-hunting agency which won the brief to find the Serious Fraud Office a successor to Barbara Mills — who in turn becomes the new Director of Public Prosecutions — reveals it was given only two weeks to complete its search, instead of the usual three months.

"The announcement of George Stiller's appointment had to be made last Tuesday, the day before John Major went to the Palace to request the dissolution of Parliament," explains Richard Goode, managing director of Carré Orban. All other statutory appointments are now believed to have been frozen until after April 9, Goode and his colleagues — "Three of us worked on it night and day for two weeks, to get it done in time," he says — placed a number of advertisements in legal journals, *The Times* and *The Sunday Times*, but only one of its final short list of six candidates had responded to the advertisements. "It was simply a question of time," says Goode. "We started with a target list of 350, got it down to 12 people, including one judge and one woman, and then the final short list of six."

Stiller, head of litigation at Clifford Chance, was the Civil Service Commission's first choice, and his acceptance of the three-to-five-year term of office was in spite of a salary drop from £300,000 plus £75,000. "It is possible he could return to Clifford Chance after his term of office at the SFO," says Goode. "That is something he will be discussing with his partners."



"I wouldn't send it to Christie's — they have enough problems."

Wily Willie

DIAMONDS have always been a girl's best friend, but Willie Nagel, one of De Beers' four international diamond dealers, comes a close second it seems. Following in Mrs Thatcher's footsteps, Norma Major has paid a visit to his Holborn office, in an elegant Georgian town house, where she had lunch with his family and then examined a selection of rough and cut diamonds, worth, Nagel says, about £5 million. "She is trying to learn about Britain's export industries and De Beers sells \$4 billion of diamonds a year, almost all of them imported and then re-exported through London," he said. Clearly an expert at casting an eye over the females his trade attracts, Nagel — the diamond representative on the Board of Trade for Exports to Israel — says of Mrs Major: "She is not as shy as the press portrays her, she is very refined and she has become very polished." She did not,

however, buy any diamonds. Instead, she listened intently to the informative lecture delivered by the ever-talkative Nagel. "Yes," admits Nagel with a wry smile, "even Mrs Thatcher listened to me."

Warburg wins

FOR the first time, SG Warburg Securities has been voted the top stockbroking house for research in the 1991 *Annual Broker Survey*. James Capel, formerly the undisputed king of the rival Exel survey, comes in second place with Kleinwort Benson third. Barclays de Zoete Wedd slips from first to fifth place. Warburg has the top analysts in three market sectors — Katie Potts for electronics, Roger Aylard for oil and gas, and Nigel Burton for utilities. Elsewhere David Lang of Henderson Crosthwaite has notched up his sixth successive win in the food manufacturing sector. Jamie Stevenson of Kleinwort Benson is voted top building analyst for the fifth year running. Charles Lambert of Smith New Court takes top place in chemicals for the third year and James Culverwell of Hoare Govett tops the health and household sector for the second year in succession. The *Annual Broker Survey*, which is published by Consensus Research International, differs from the league tables produced by its rivals, Exel and Institutional Investor, in that it monitors the views of the companies that are being analysed, rather than eliciting the views of the companies' investors and professional advisers.

CAROL LEONARD

Accountants and democracy

From DJ. Hughes

Sir, It is gratifying to see the amount of press coverage afforded to the election of a vice-president of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales; however, headlines such as "Opening the door to democracy" are misplaced.

I am a member of the council of the institute and supported the move to direct an open election of vice-presidents. However, your readers must not be misled into thinking the process is democratic, as vice-presidents are nominated and elected only by council members and the council itself is not democratically elected; nor is it representative.

Of the present 78 members of council, only 20 have actually been elected by the wider membership. 19 are co-opted and the remaining 59 are "elected" by the 22 district society memberships. Unfortunately, such elections are rarely contested, the successful candidate emerging through "the usual channels" without opposition.

As regards representativeness, out of the 97,000 total membership of the institute, only 30 per cent hold practising certificates, enabling them to engage in public practice, whereas 80 per cent of the membership of council are practising accountants or former leading practitioners. Given the balance, it is not surprising that there have been only three presidents from business in 112 years.

A major factor contributing to this unrepresentativeness is the apathy of members, coupled with the particular difficulty business members have in persuading their employers that time involved in institute affairs is beneficial to the business.

The present leaders of the institute deserve considerable support for their current efforts to consult and involve members in its affairs and to improve two-way communication. Only by convincing members that it is their institute and that it is in the members' interest to be directly involved in its running, will the goal of a representative council democratically accountable to all its members be achieved.

Yours faithfully,
DON J. HUGHES,
19 Church Avenue,
Ruislip,
Middlesex.

Blue Arrow stakes

From Boodle Hatfield

Sir, We represent Jonathan Cohen in the Blue Arrow affair. In your article on March 13, at page 21, you stated that: "After the rights issue failed, three senior executives of County NatWest, the securities offshoot, retained a 9.8 per cent stake in the company that they illegally failed to report."

The 9.8 per cent stake in Blue Arrow was in fact held as separate stakes: 4.9 per cent

was held by County NatWest Limited and (in September 1987) 4.6 per cent was held by County NatWest Securities Limited, which is the securities offshoot.

These holdings were below the 5 per cent reporting level in force at the time and were not aggregable. There was no finding in the recent Blue Arrow trial that the holdings gave rise to a legal reporting requirement.

Yours faithfully,
BOODLE HATFIELD,
43 Brook Street,
W1.

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Title _____ Initials _____
Surname _____
Address _____
Postcode _____

	Bid	Offer	Way	Yld		Bid	Offer	Way	Yld
Amstar Corp	414.01	234.24	...	0.54	Don Spec Sec	36.56	34.82	...	0.24
Avnet Inc	11.00	10.00	...	0.34	001	36.56	34.82	...	0.24
Bank of America	126.53	126.53	...	0.47	Don Corp	22.41	21.17	...	0.10
East Energy Cos	126.53	126.53	...	0.47	002	22.41	21.17	...	0.10
Eastman Kodak	10.00	9.00	...	0.34	Don Corp	22.41	21.17	...	0.10
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Exchange index compared with 1985 was up at 99.9 (day's range 99.8-99.9).					
STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES					
Mkt Rates for March 16		Range	Close	1 month	3 months
Amsterdam		3.2152-3.2214	3.2184-3.2214		1-4 wpr
Brussels		58.96-59.92	58.90-59.91	7-5 pr	17-12pr
Copenhagen		11.0662-11.0552	11.0615-11.0552	1-4 wpr	2-4 wpr
Dublin		1.0710-1.0730	1.0720-1.0730	par-3pr	3pr-12pr
Frankfurt		2.8522-2.8592	2.8552-2.8592	1-4 wpr	1-4 wpr
Geneva		1.0650-1.0670	1.0650-1.0670	1-4 wpr	1-4 wpr
Madrid		180.57-180.77	180.63-180.87	10-15 months	80-95pr
Niisan		214.41-215.41	214.57-215.57	2-4 ds	7-4ds
Osaka		2.0233-2.0253	2.0233-2.0253	0.60-0.90	1.02-1.50pr
New York		1.7125-1.7167	1.7150-1.7167	1.00-1.25pr	1.25-2.00pr
Paris		11.0980-11.2229	11.2158-11.2229	1-4 wpr	1-4 wpr
Port of Spain		1.0350-1.0370	1.0350-1.0370	1-4 wpr	1-4 wpr
Stockholm		10.3556-10.3775	10.3646-10.3775	1-4 wpr	1-4 wpr
Switzerland		2.92-3.230-3.30	2.92-3.230-3.30	1-4 wpr	1-4 wpr
Tokyo		226.20-226.13	226.13-226.13	2-4 wpr	2-4 wpr
Zurich		2.5802-2.5898	2.5800-2.5898	1-4 wpr	1-4 wpr
Source: Emtel				Physician - pr	Discount - ds
OTHER STERLING RATES					
Australia austral*		1.6948-1.6974			
DOLLAR SPOT RATES					
Australia				1.3241-1.3250	

[illegible]

Portfolio

PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum and check your share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check it against the daily dividend figure. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the daily prize money. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No	Company	Group	Code	1991/92 High	1991/92 Low	1991/92 Close	1991/92 % Chg	1991/92 % Div
1	Greene King	Breweries	100	1.10	1.05	1.08	+0.03	5.0
2	Lloyds Chem	Chemicals	100	1.10	1.05	1.08	+0.03	5.0
3	Lloyds (S)	Textiles	100	1.10	1.05	1.08	+0.03	5.0
4	Shim Water	Water	100	1.10	1.05	1.08	+0.03	5.0
5	Calor Gas	Oil, Gas	100	1.10	1.05	1.08	+0.03	5.0
6	Exp Co Lond	Oil, Gas	100	1.10	1.05	1.08	+0.03	5.0
7	James Stuart	Electrical	100	1.10	1.05	1.08	+0.03	5.0
8	Multimedia	Electrical	100	1.10	1.05	1.08	+0.03	5.0
9	Glendon (M)	Building	100	1.10	1.05	1.08	+0.03	5.0
10	Wardle Stores	Chemicals	100	1.10	1.05	1.08	+0.03	5.0
11	Hillhead	Food	100	1.10	1.05	1.08	+0.03	5.0
12	Kwik Save	Food	100	1.10	1.05	1.08	+0.03	5.0
13	Slebe	Industrial	100	1.10	1.05	1.08	+0.03	5.0
14	Ren	Electrical	100	1.10	1.05	1.08	+0.03	5.0
15	Unigate	Food	100	1.10	1.05	1.08	+0.03	5.0
16	Kewell	Food	100	1.10	1.05	1.08	+0.03	5.0
17	Davis (D)	Industrial	100	1.10	1.05	1.08	+0.03	5.0
18	Stim Food	Food	100	1.10	1.05	1.08	+0.03	5.0
19	Alloy-Lynn	Breweries	100	1.10	1.05	1.08	+0.03	5.0
20	INSTEM	Electrical	100	1.10	1.05	1.08	+0.03	5.0
21	Alba	Electrical	100	1.10	1.05	1.08	+0.03	5.0
22	Teco	Food	100	1.10	1.05	1.08	+0.03	5.0
23	Thorn Europe	Oil, Gas	100	1.10	1.05	1.08	+0.03	5.0
24	Tipitook	Transport	100	1.10	1.05	1.08	+0.03	5.0
25	UK Land	Property	100	1.10	1.05	1.08	+0.03	5.0
26	Body Shop	Drugs	100	1.10	1.05	1.08	+0.03	5.0
27	Warburg SG	Banking	100	1.10	1.05	1.08	+0.03	5.0
28	Aviva Pet	Oil, Gas	100	1.10	1.05	1.08	+0.03	5.0
29	Coloursation	Drugs	100	1.10	1.05	1.08	+0.03	5.0
30	De La Rue	Industrial	100	1.10	1.05	1.08	+0.03	5.0
31	Whitbread A	Breweries	100	1.10	1.05	1.08	+0.03	5.0
32	Remond	Chemicals	100	1.10	1.05	1.08	+0.03	5.0
33	Lancet	Medical	100	1.10	1.05	1.08	+0.03	5.0
34	Uth Biotech	Food	100	1.10	1.05	1.08	+0.03	5.0
35	Midland	Banking	100	1.10	1.05	1.08	+0.03	5.0
36	Kode	Electrical	100	1.10	1.05	1.08	+0.03	5.0
37	Shell	Oil, Gas	100	1.10	1.05	1.08	+0.03	5.0
38	Smith & Neph	Industrial	100	1.10	1.05	1.08	+0.03	5.0
39	Compagny	Leisure	100	1.10	1.05	1.08	+0.03	5.0
40	Bowater	Industrial	100	1.10	1.05	1.08	+0.03	5.0
41	Burial	Property	100	1.10	1.05	1.08	+0.03	5.0
42	MEPC	Property	100	1.10	1.05	1.08	+0.03	5.0
43	Insurance Co	Industrial	100	1.10	1.05	1.08	+0.03	5.0
44	TI	Industrial	100	1.10	1.05	1.08	+0.03	5.0

Please take into account any limit signs

Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily gain for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in Saturday's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN

Brian McWilliams, of Fordingbridge, Hampshire, won the £4,000 Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday.

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

1991/92 High	1991/92 Low	1991/92 Close	1991/92 % Chg	1991/92 % Div
11	10	10.5	+0.5	5.0
12	11	11.5	+0.5	5.0
13	12	12.5	+0.5	5.0
14	13	13.5	+0.5	5.0
15	14	14.5	+0.5	5.0
16	15	15.5	+0.5	5.0
17	16	16.5	+0.5	5.0
18	17	17.5	+0.5	5.0
19	18	18.5	+0.5	5.0
20	19	19.5	+0.5	5.0
21	20	20.5	+0.5	5.0
22	21	21.5	+0.5	5.0
23	22	22.5	+0.5	5.0
24	23	23.5	+0.5	5.0
25	24	24.5	+0.5	5.0
26	25	25.5	+0.5	5.0
27	26	26.5	+0.5	5.0
28	27	27.5	+0.5	5.0
29	28	28.5	+0.5	5.0
30	29	29.5	+0.5	5.0
31	30	30.5	+0.5	5.0
32	31	31.5	+0.5	5.0
33	32	32.5	+0.5	5.0
34	33	33.5	+0.5	5.0
35	34	34.5	+0.5	5.0
36	35	35.5	+0.5	5.0
37	36	36.5	+0.5	5.0
38	37	37.5	+0.5	5.0
39	38	38.5	+0.5	5.0
40	39	39.5	+0.5	5.0
41	40	40.5	+0.5	5.0
42	41	41.5	+0.5	5.0
43	42	42.5	+0.5	5.0
44	43	43.5	+0.5	5.0
45	44	44.5	+0.5	5.0
46	45	45.5	+0.5	5.0
47	46	46.5	+0.5	5.0
48	47	47.5	+0.5	5.0
49	48	48.5	+0.5	5.0
50	49	49.5	+0.5	5.0
51	50	50.5	+0.5	5.0
52	51	51.5	+0.5	5.0
53	52	52.5	+0.5	5.0
54	53	53.5	+0.5	5.0
55	54	54.5	+0.5	5.0
56	55	55.5	+0.5	5.0
57	56	56.5	+0.5	5.0
58	57	57.5	+0.5	5.0
59	58	58.5	+0.5	5.0
60	59	59.5	+0.5	5.0
61	60	60.5	+0.5	5.0
62	61	61.5	+0.5	5.0
63	62	62.5	+0.5	5.0
64	63	63.5	+0.5	5.0
65	64	64.5	+0.5	5.0
66	65	65.5	+0.5	5.0
67	66	66.5	+0.5	5.0
68	67	67.5	+0.5	5.0
69	68	68.5	+0.5	5.0
70	69	69.5	+0.5	5.0
71	70	70.5	+0.5	5.0
72	71	71.5	+0.5	5.0
73	72	72.5	+0.5	5.0
74	73	73.5	+0.5	5.0
75	74	74.5	+0.5	5.0
76	75	75.5	+0.5	5.0
77	76	76.5	+0.5	5.0
78	77	77.5	+0.5	5.0
79	78	78.5	+0.5	5.0
80	79	79.5	+0.5	5.0
81	80	80.5	+0.5	5.0
82	81	81.5	+0.5	5.0
83	82	82.5	+0.5	5.0
84	83	83.5	+0.5	5.0
85	84	84.5	+0.5	5.0
86	85	85.5	+0.5	5.0
87	86	86.5	+0.5	5.0
88	87	87.5	+0.5	5.0
89	88	88.5	+0.5	5.0
90	89	89.5	+0.5	5.0
91	90	90.5	+0.5	5.0
92	91	91.5	+0.5	5.0
93	92	92.5	+0.5	5.0
94	93	93.5	+0.5	5.0
95	94	94.5	+0.5	5.0
96	95	95.5	+0.5	5.0
97	96	96.5	+0.5	5.0
98	97	97.5	+0.5	5.0
99	98	98.5	+0.5	5.0
100	99	99.5	+0.5	5.0

BREWERS

112	490	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
113	491	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
114	492	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
115	493	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
116	494	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
117	495	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
118	496	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
119	497	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
120	498	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
121	499	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
122	500	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
123	501	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
124	502	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
125	503	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
126	504	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
127	505	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
128	506	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
129	507	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
130	508	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
131	509	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
132	510	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
133	511	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
134	512	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
135	513	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
136	514	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
137	515	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
138	516	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
139	517	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
140	518	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
141	519	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
142	520	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
143	521	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
144	522	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
145	523	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
146	524	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
147	525	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
148	526	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
149	527	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
150	528	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
151	529	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
152	530	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
153	531	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
154	532	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
155	533	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
156	534	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
157	535	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
158	536	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
159	537	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
160	538	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
161	539	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
162	540	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
163	541	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
164	542	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
165	543	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
166	544	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
167	545	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
168	546	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
169	547	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
170	548	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
171	549	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
172	550	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
173	551	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
174	552	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
175	553	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
176	554	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
177	555	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
178	556	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
179	557	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
180	558	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
181	559	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
182	560	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
183	561	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
184	562	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
185	563	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
186	564	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
187	565	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
188	566	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
189	567	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
190	568	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
191	569	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
192	570	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
193	571	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
194	572	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
195	573	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
196	574	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
197	575	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
198	576	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
199	577	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
200	578	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
201	579	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
202	580	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
203	581	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
204	582	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
205	583	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
206	584	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
207	585	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
208	586	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
209	587	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
210	588	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
211	589	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
212	590	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
213	591	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
214	592	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
215	593	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
216	594	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
217	595	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
218	596	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
219	597	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
220	598	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
221	599	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
222	600	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
223	601	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
224	602	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
225	603	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
226	604	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
227	605	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
228	606	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
229	607	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
230	608	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
231	609	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
232	610	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
233	611	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
234	612	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
235	613	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
236	614	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
237	615	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
238	616	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
239	617	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
240	618	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
241	619	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
242	620	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
243	621	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
244	622	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
245	623	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
246	624	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
247	625	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
248	626	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
249	627	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
250	628	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
251	629	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
252	630	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
253	631	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
254	632	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
255	633	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
256	634	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
257	635	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
258	636	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
259	637	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
260	638	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
261	639	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
262	640	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
263	641	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
264	642	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
265	643	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
266	644	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
267	645	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
268	646	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
269	647	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
270	648	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
271	649	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
272	650	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
273	651	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
274	652	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
275	653	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
276	654	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
277	655	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
278	656	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
279	657	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
280	658	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
281	659	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
282	660	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
283	661	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
284	662	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
285	663	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
286	664	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
287	665	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
288	666	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
289	667	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
290	668	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
291	669	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
292	670	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
293	671	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
294	672	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
295	673	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
296	674	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
297	675	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
298	676	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4	18.8	40	141
299	677	Alcoa Inc.	623	+4			

MARCH 17
YACHTING
Dickson
opens
up cup
series

Italians given added incentive to progress in European Cup

Boskov's departure may fuel Sampdoria's desire

OVERSEAS FOOTBALL
by Peter Robinson

WINNING the European Cup was to have been Veselin Vezdinov's crowning achievement at Sampdoria after six successful years in charge. If, indeed, the Yugoslav star does bring Europe's greatest prize to Genoa, it will also be his swansong.

On the eve of their latest victory into the Cup's semi-finals, the club's president, Flavio Carboni, revealed that Vezdinov's departure, after six years, is inevitable. He said: "Regardless of the success, otherwise, in the Cup, Boskov is to take the helm of AS Roma in the summer with the Serie A, Sven Goran Eriksson, taking his place."

Sampdoria hardly needed any extra motivation for the impending visit of Anderlecht, the Belgian champions, to the Luigi Ferraris stadium, but with the news of Vezdinov's departure, they have been a popular figure at the club and, in winning the Scudetto, the Italian championship, last season, he brought Sampdoria their greatest honour. His players will be desperate to give him a triumph farewell.

Victory tomorrow is, nevertheless, a virtual necessity.

Both Sampdoria and Anderlecht trail the European champions, Milan, by a point in the semi-finals of the semi-finals, and defeat would all but seal any hopes of reaching the final. Anderlecht won the title last season in Brussels, a fortnight ago, 2-2.

A 2-2 draw with Genoa on Sunday may have sharpened Sampdoria's focus, but it may also have taken the edge off it. It was, after all, a triumph and, with Vezdinov's departure, the club's president, Flavio Carboni, said: "Regardless of the success, otherwise, in the Cup, Boskov is to take the helm of AS Roma in the summer with the Serie A, Sven Goran Eriksson, taking his place."

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Talking tennis: Becker has words with his racket after a poor shot in Florida

Graf pursues perfect game

FROM ANDREW LONGMORE, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT, IN KEY BISCAYNE

LACK of match practice has not disturbed Steffi Graf's traditional slaughter of the innocents. Yesterday, in her only third tournament of the year, the No. 2 seed allowed Raffaella Reggi just four games as she reached the fourth round of the Lipton International here in Florida.

Ever the early bird, Graf was on and out court long before midday, having only a few minutes to warm up on the heat of the Florida sun. Yet, the German, who had to withdraw from the Australian Open with a viral infection in January and missed almost the whole of the first two months of the season, is still searching for the perfect game.

Under new coach, Heinz Günthard, Graf is trying to lend variety to a game which is no longer the dominant force it once was. She is trying to come to the net more, learning to be more aggressive tactically and mixing up her shots more, none of which will be good news for the rest of the women's tour.

"It's difficult to be at the top of my game right now because I am trying out so many different things," Graf said yesterday. "The more I do it, the happier I am, but there is still some way to go."

Graf's change of coach - from Pavel Slovic to Günthard - was seen as a response to the growing domination of Monica Seles, who has been champion at Lipton for the past two years and has just celebrated the first anniversary of her rise to world No. 1. But Graf says the motivation for the new model was neither Seles nor increasing boredom at the monotony of her game. "I just feel there is so much more to come from my game and I would be stupid if I didn't try to use it."

Whatever the stage of transition, Graf was still far too strong for Reggi-Concato, who was outlasted from all sides and only had tenacity to offer. Graf meets Kimiko Date, the rising star, in the fourth round and will be more severely tested by the Japanese girl.

In the second round of the men's singles, Boris Becker had one of his more lethargic days, struggling to beat the Frenchman, Arnaud Boesche, in three sets and Stefan Edberg had to survive the loss of the opening set against a qualifier, Grant Stafford from South Africa, who was forced to retire with leg cramp at the start of the third set.

The Czechs have not been enjoying themselves. Both Karel Novacek and Petr Korda, the numbers ten and seven seeds respectively, failed to reach the fourth round.

Graham is ordered to defend

Herol Graham, outpointed by Sumbu Kalambay, the European champion, in Italy last week, has been told to defend his British middleweight title against Frank Grant, of Bradford.

Grant was refused permission by the British Board of Control to box Graham last October because a brain scan raised "queries". He has now been cleared.

Krabbe hearing

Athletics: The German Athletics Federation will hear the case of Katrin Krabbe and two other suspended sprinters on April 4. Krabbe, Grit Breuer and Silke Möller were suspended for four years last month after drug-test irregularities.

No united Korea

Olympic Games: Rivals South and North Korea are unlikely to form a united team for the Barcelona Summer Olympics. The countries have until March 25 to submit a proposal for a single team for the Games in July, but no action has been taken.

Pavin triumphs

Golf: Corey Pavin beat Fred Couples in a sudden-death playoff in the Honda Classic in Fort Lauderdale on Sunday. Nick Faldo, of Britain, tied for seventeenth place.

Peter McEvoy, twice Amateur champion and five times a Walker Cup player, is to take golf lessons for the first time "to stimulate my game".

Under pressure

Rowing: Eton, winners of the schools head for the past two years, will be under pressure at Putney today to prevent Hampton snatching their crown.

Tignes double

Skiing: Valerie Scott and Bill Gayford took the giant slalom titles at the British National Championships yesterday at Tignes.

Edberg to lead

Table Tennis: Stefan Edberg will head Sweden's team for the Davis Cup second round in Australia. Magnus Gustafsson, Anders Jarryd and Christian Bergström make up the remainder.

Italy have named Omar Camporese, Paolo Cane, Diego Nargiso and Stefano Pescosolido for the quarter-final against Brazil.

Half missing

American football: Fewer than half of the London Monarchs who won the inaugural World League of American Football championship last June have returned to defend the title.

CYCLING

Court clears Bauer of sprint finish charges

Oudenaarde, Belgium: A court here yesterday acquitted Steve Bauer, of Canada, of assault charges brought by Claude Criquielion, of Belgium, after Criquielion crashed during the sprint finish of the 1988 world championships. Bauer had veered off his line during the finish. Criquielion is expected to appeal against the decision.

Criquielion, who retired from professional cycling last year, said Bauer had pushed him into the railings during a three-man sprint finish in nearby Ronse, costing him the lucrative world title. Mario Fondriest, of Italy, won instead. Bauer was disqualified and had to leave the scene under the protection of police while the outraged Criquielion supporters were kept at bay.

Immediately after the race, Criquielion, then aged 31, filed charges of voluntary and involuntary assault against Bauer.

The court ruled it was not proven beyond doubt that Bauer pushed Criquielion into the railings.

Criquielion could have sued for damages had Bauer been convicted. Observers feared many similar incidents would have to be settled in court in the future if the judge had convicted Bauer.

After a grueling 168-mile race, Criquielion, Fondriest and Bauer started the tough uphill sprint to the finish together. Bauer took the early initiative but appeared to run out of steam with 100 metres to go while Criquielion surged. When the Belgian moved alongside the Canadian, Bauer veered off his line, forcing the Belgian into the railings.

THE TIMES

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Taylor picks a largely predictable squad

Hateley returns to resume his England career

By STUART JONES, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

THE international career of Mark Hateley has been resurrected. It started in 1984 and finished, apparently, in 1988, with appearances as a substitute in fixtures against the Soviet Union, both of which ended in defeat.

At the age of 31, he has been recalled to the England squad and, if Graham Taylor chooses to turn back the clock against Czechoslovakia in Prague next Wednesday, he could reform his partnership with Gary Lineker. The pair were selected seven times together in the middle of Bobby Robson's reign.

Hateley's professional livelihood has been chequered by transfers, which have taken him to AC Milan and Monaco, among other places, and particularly by injuries. A rumbustious and fearless centre forward, he has been betrayed by legs that have often collapsed under various strains.

Had he not been the victim of yet another ailment earlier in the year, he would doubtless have been brought back for the game against France last month.

Now restored to fitness and enjoying a productive season at Rangers, he has been add-

ed to a growing list of forwards selected by Taylor. In 16 internationals, 17 have so far featured in an ever-changing front line.

Lee Sharpe, Manchester United's 21-year-old winger, is considered to be on the verge of joining them and promises, as long as he is available, to be included for the visit to Moscow next month.

Hateley's strength, when he was first introduced before the unexpectedly successful tour of South America, lay principally in the air. Taylor, who watched his debut for Rangers against Dynamo Kiev two years ago, believes that he has since matured and improved his qualities on the ground.

"It wasn't easy for him to be accepted by the supporters in his first season but they took to him after he scored two goals against Aberdeen to clinch the title last season," Robson said.

"He looks fitter and he can cope with the pace of the Scottish game, which is sometimes quicker than down here."

"He has a good turn of speed and he has increased his awareness. He brings oth-

ers into the game and, with 31 caps, he already has the experience. Perhaps this is a chance for him to reverse the way things went during the World Cup in 1986."

Hateley went into the tournament as Lineker's recognised assistant but, once Peter Beardsley had assumed his role in Mexico, he was never again considered to be genuinely in contention.

Apart from being picked against Scotland, he was otherwise kept in reserve for another two years.

He takes the place of Ian Wright in a party that is stronger than last month and, with one exception, predictable.

Paul Parker has come in for Keith Curle in defence, David Platt for Paul Ince, who is ruled out through suspension, in midfield, and John Barnes for Tony Daley in attack.

Barnes seems especially certain to play because his opportunities, like those of his club colleagues, may be restricted.

He will miss the trip to Moscow if Liverpool reach the UEFA Cup final, the game in Hungary if they reach the FA Cup final and the showpiece against Brazil if there is a replay.

The one unexpected inclusion was Stephen Pearce of Middlesbrough, and the fourth goalkeeper. "He has done exceedingly well, not just this season but for two or three years," Taylor said.

Thus, the England manager has balanced an otherwise settled squad with an odd-timer as well as a newcomer.



Hateley: recalled to the England squad to play Czechoslovakia in Prague

Keegan's demands are met

By IAN ROSS

KEVIN Keegan will return to the task of preserving Newcastle United football club's second division status this morning after learning that his board of directors had agreed to fully meet his demands for the immediate establishment of a fund to

finance the purchase of new players.

Keegan, who was appointed manager on February 5 after the dismissal of Osvaldo Ardiles, walked out on the struggling club after Saturday's victory over Swindon Town and indicated that he

was considering resigning after what he construed to be the breach of a verbal agreement regarding the availability of money to spend on new players.

Although Keegan said on Sunday evening that he was prepared to remain in charge at St James' Park until the end of the season, he insisted that he would not commit himself to an extended contract until after he had received assurances about the club's financial status.

Sir John Hall, the Newcastle chairman, who is assembling a rescue package to help ensure the survival of a club which is £5 million in debt, said yesterday that money was now available and that he was anticipating a "tremendous future" under Keegan's management. "In advance of the rescue plan, my wife and I are releasing funds to the club to buy players," he said. "I will be discussing that with Kevin; we will sit down and talk figures."

"We are totally supportive of him. There is money to buy players now and he will get it. This club is still on the verge of bankruptcy but we are committed to the rescue package and we hope that everything will be in place in the next few months."

FA fines Spurs over tickets

By JOHN GOODBODY

TOTTENHAM Hotspur were yesterday censured and fined £2,500 by the Football Association for the way they handled the distribution of tickets for the FA Cup final last season.

After a ten-month inquiry into the ticket black market, the FA also punished Gordon Banks, the goalkeeper in England's 1966 World Cup victory, seven players and two club directors.

The FA was particularly

critical of Tottenham, who beat Nottingham Forest in the final last May, for failing to compile and produce a list giving details of the ticket numbers issued to players and officials, and the name and addresses of anyone to whom the tickets were passed.

The FA said that Tottenham had not kept proper records of tickets allocated to persons other than players and officials, and had failed to reply to correspondence "in

a manner expected of a full member club of the FA."

Tottenham were warned about their future conduct, ordered to give written assurances about the future handling of tickets, and ordered to pay £2,500 costs.

The FA's match and ground committee was recommended to cut Tottenham's FA Cup final allocation by 20 per cent over the next three years. If Tottenham reach the final in this period, they will receive their full complement of tickets, although the FA will appoint someone to supervise their allocation and distribution.

Peter Barnes, the Tottenham secretary, said: "This is the first I have heard of a fine. I do not want to comment until we have been informed officially by the FA."

Banks bought tickets from various sources for the corporate hospitality company he runs and refused to co-operate with the investigation. He was barred from receiving tickets for seven years.

He said: "I bought the tickets from a legitimate agency and added no money to the sum I had paid for them. How does that make me a tout? It is nonsense and I am very disillusioned."

England may ask for a replacement

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

Sydney: England may seek permission to call up a replacement player if Derek Pringle, who is to see an orthopaedic surgeon in Albany today, is ruled unfit for their World Cup semi-final. There are increasing fears that Pringle, who is thought to have torn his rib cartilage, may be a long-term casualty.

England, who play Zimbabwe in their last group match in Albany tonight, spent an unscheduled night in Sydney yesterday after their flight from Wellington was delayed by two hours because of bad weather. They missed the connecting service to Albany and were rebooked on an early-morning flight, causing the manager, Micki Stewart, to rearrange yesterday's practice schedule.

Pringle left the field in pain during Sunday's defeat by New Zealand in Wellington. "Derek is a worry at the moment," Stewart said. "He's in a lot of discomfort and the sooner we know about his injury and how long it will take him to get over it, the better."

Asked whether he would consider approaching the competition organisers for a replacement, Stewart said: "I hope it doesn't come to that."

While Pringle has bowled well throughout the tournament, England would be less worried about his possible absence if their other 13 players were all fully fit. But that is far from the case.

Three other members of the attack — Dermot Reeve (hip), Chris Lewis (side) and Phillip DeFreitas (thigh) — are all receiving regular treatment. And with two batsmen, Neil Fairbrother (virus) and Graham Gooch (hamstring), also on the casualty list, England are struggling to raise a side.

"I think we can get through the Zimbabwe game," Stewart said, although he hinted they might need to call on Paul Frith as an emergency fielder.

Frithard, the Essex batsman who has been playing club cricket in Australia this winter, has been helping out the England squad for a week. He went on the field during last Thursday's win over South Africa at Melbourne when Reeve and DeFreitas limped off.

Obtaining permission for an extra fielder proved relatively easy. But England would probably struggle to win approval for a batting and bowling replacement for Pringle. "Before the World Cup began, the organisers said they would look on injuries with more sympathy during the early stages of the competition than towards the end," Stewart said.

Tonight's match is important for several England players. Allan Lamb badly needs a lengthy innings, and both Gooch and Lewis need to prove their fitness.

Zimbabwe struggle, page 28
Players back reform, page 13

Career ends for Carvill's Hill

By MICHAEL SEELY

CARVILL'S Hill, chasing's dethroned idol, is unlikely to race again after being injured in last Thursday's controversial Tote Cheltenham Gold Cup.

The even money favourite finished last behind Cool Ground, a 25-1 outsider, in controversial circumstances.

Martin Pipe, Carvill's Hill's trainer, said yesterday: "We don't know at what stage of the race it happened. But Carvill's Hill has pulled muscles in his chest, which could have injured his breathing in the race. He sustained cuts and bruising to his front and hind legs. He's also damaged a tendon and is lame."

"He definitely won't run either this season or next. As for the future, that's too far ahead to be thinking about."

A further ironic twist to the tale is that Toby Tobias, the horse for whom benefit Jenny



Pipe: Carvill's Hill has catalogue of injuries

Pitman is alleged to have used Golden Freeze as a spoiler for Carvill's Hill, is also out of action for at least two years.

Toby Tobias finished lame in fourth place. He was found to have injured a front tendon.

Pitman said: "The situation has been reassessed after Toby had been scanned by the vet. The severity of the injury is such that he will be unable to race again for two seasons."

Millions watching the race, live and on television, saw Michael Bowley, on Golden Freeze, attempting to harry Carvill's Hill into making mistakes at his fences.

In a television interview on Saturday, Pitman claimed that Golden Freeze had been running on his merits and that he had not been there to "mess" Carvill's Hill about.

The majority of Pitman's colleagues have supported her and claim that her tactics were legitimate and successful in that they exploited a suspected flaw in Carvill's Hill.

The Jockey Club, still considering whether to hold an enquiry into the emotive affair, yesterday issued a discreet non-statement. "We can't take a decision until the transcript of the enquiry by the Cheltenham stewards into the running of Carvill's Hill has been seen and the need for further action assessed."

Sunday racing, page 27

Olympic system is criticised

By RICHARD EATON

THE opportunity to fix such matches as the All-England badminton championship men's singles final at Wembley has been created by using world rankings to decide who goes to the Olympic Games this summer, according to Gill Clark, the chairperson of the Badminton Players' Association. Yesterday Clark criticised the qualifying system for Barcelona, where badminton will be included for the first time.

"I have my suspicions about the All-England final even though the winner Liu Jun is a brilliant player," Clark said. "Collusion on results has been known before, although more recently that has not been the case. But it is clear the system offers opportunities for collusion."

Only two players from each country can qualify for the Olympics but a third place can be obtained by a player in the world's top eight. "It was a blatantly political move when they worked out this system," Clark said. "It tries to bring in a lot more countries rather than have the best players at the Olympics. The International Badminton Federation has done a marvellous job getting the sport to the Olympics but the Players' Association predicted what would happen at a meeting in Singapore in October. Players and countries are out to beat the computer by whatever means possible."

Clark, a medal contender for Britain in the women's doubles at Barcelona, would prefer three players per coun-

try to qualify if they reached the top 40, rather than the top eight. It was alleged by the Indonesian manager, Leo Wiranata, on Saturday that the Chinese may have manoeuvred Liu Jun, the world No. 11, into the top eight, after he had successfully beaten two compatriots, Wu Wenkai, the world No. 3, and Zhao Jianhua, the top-seeded world champion, to take the All-England title. Yesterday Liu was promoted to second in the world rankings.

The IBF's president, Arthur Jones, agreed that the system might lead to collusion. "We have tried to get a balance between the best players and a spread of countries which the IOC wanted and I think we have done that."

Steroids for sale in Spain

By DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

CONCERN among Spanish sports officials at the possibility of Olympic competitors buying over-the-counter steroids at the Games in Barcelona this summer has been heightened after five CIS athletes were photographed doing just that while in San Sebastian for an International Amateur Athletic Federation indoor invitation meeting this month.

A Spanish newspaper, *El Diario Vasco*, reported that the five, all women, who had competed at the meeting had purchased the entire supply of steroids from local chemists' shops and the Spanish athletics federation (Real Federación Española de Atletismo) verified the report yesterday. "It is very worrying for us, as a national federa-

tion, that they should be coming here to compete and buying them here when it is our Olympic year," a federation spokesman said.

"It is a bombshell that they should come to the Olympic country and purchase them. We have no control here over what is legal and what is not. All we can do is make recommendations across ministers and have them review what should be prohibited. It is very distressing to us."

Last year, Professor José María Odriozola, the Spanish federation president, received from the King of Spain the national prize for his federation being the leading sports body in the country in the fight against drugs. "It is a blow to him personally, not because our athletes are

doing it because they are not, but that athletes should be coming to an Olympic country wanting to buy drugs and that they should be available so readily," the federation spokesman added.

Drug-testing was carried out at the meeting and the results are expected in the next two days. If they prove negative, it is a reasonable supposition, since the IAAF knows who they are (although the photographs were not published), that the athletes in question might find themselves tested often between now and Barcelona. The testing of CIS athletes has been patchy since the break-up of the Soviet Union.

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LIFE & TIMES

TUESDAY MARCH 17 1992



LAW
Why lawyers are popular in the lobbies of Brussels

When we are all heirs to a fortune

Once only the wealthy and landed squabbled over inherited riches in a will. Now, Libby Purves says, almost anyone can find that their parents have bequeathed them a family fight

John Major recently spoke with enthusiasm of his vision of family wealth "cascading down the generations". It is a pretty image, conjuring up one of those precarious pyramids of champagne-glasses that fill and spill from the top downwards: festive, symmetrical and abundant.

Last week his Chancellor continued the theme. "Inheritance and capital," Norman Lamont said, "are no longer a privilege of the wealthy few." He announced his intention to up the starting point for inheritance tax to £150,000 and hinted at further relief in the future.

That this is a populist move only proves how much things have changed. It is not so long since wills and legacies were mainly the affair of the aristocracy and of that wealthy bourgeoisie whose squabbles have fuelled the plots of novelists from Jane Austen to P.G. Wodehouse.

If bequeathing has become a commoner preoccupation, the reason is simple: home ownership. In 1914, 90 per cent of British people paid rent. Even by the early 1950s, fewer than a third of families owned a house. Today it is more than 70 per cent.

In thousands of families the first generation of owner-occupiers is reaching the end of its life. A Nationwide Building Society survey in January found that one in twelve people in the United Kingdom has inherited in the past five years, to an average value of £33,857. Since many of the bequests were small, that average suggests that those who got houses — a quarter of those questioned — must have cleared substantial sums.

"Inheritance," said John Hutchinson of Nationwide, "obviously plays an important part in a significant number of families' finances." Nor is it only a matter of inheriting after death: there is increasing interest in the kind of dodges — once confined to the landed gentry — whereby parents save their children tax by handing over wealth early.

So we can all be King Lear, dividing our kingdom among our daughters. Or we can keep the reins in our hands, like Aunt Ada Doom in *Cold Comfort Farm* or one of those dotty Agatha Christie patriarchs who keep holding will-changing house-parties until someone justifiably slips cyanide in their cocoa.

We can bask in it, like Thackeray's old Miss Crawley in *Vanity*

Fair. "What a dignity it gives an old lady, that balance at the banker's! How tenderly we look at her faults!"

For good or ill, it is a game we can almost all play these days. The fact is that any aged couple, if they own the roof they live under, have a hell of a lot to leave even if they have very little to live on meanwhile. However frugal their lives, their death will liberate heady amounts of capital.

To expect this not to colour family relationships would be unnatural. Innocent families who once would have had nothing but granny's silver gravy-boat to bicker about have now been drawn into the big league. They have acquired the same problems as the old moneyed classes: dilemmas about death duties, gifts, and the rival claims of ageing children, second spouses and illegitimate grandchildren.

How sweet, then, in 1992, is the tinkle of Mr Major's cascade? Is middle-class inheritance smooth

'I was jealous of his electric train when I was ten, and I'm bloody furious over the will now'

and harmonious, or are there dissonant notes and cracked glasses?

Richard Bark-Jones is a lawyer in Liverpool. "The property-owning classes," he says, "have spread and spread. Comparatively generous pensions mean life savings are often intact, too. Yet a lot of people still make no will." One problem is that people often have no family tradition of handling inheritance. Moreover, the idea of inherited wealth was fine for that vanished gentry world where a gentleman had a private income and a nice girl a dowry; but it clashes horribly with the modern work-ethic. Some ageing people, Mr Bark-Jones observes, deliberately discount the implications of their wealth to their children. "They say they should make their own way."

Others, however, are desperately anxious to save their children money. Frances MacDonald, the ducer of Radio 4's *Moneybox*, says

her listeners "worry terribly. It's awful: they're inclined to beggar themselves, especially the widows. 'I may be a maverick, but I feel they should just enjoy themselves. For heaven's sake, it isn't them who'll be paying the tax.'"

Mr Bark-Jones agrees. "Some elderly clients try to divest themselves of as much as possible in their lifetime to avoid tax for their children. One does counsel them to think it through. Suppose they need an expensive operation, or a nursing home for years? Sometimes people give money to a dearly beloved son or daughter, and then need it for an emergency, and it is amazing how actually having control of money can bring out the worst in people."

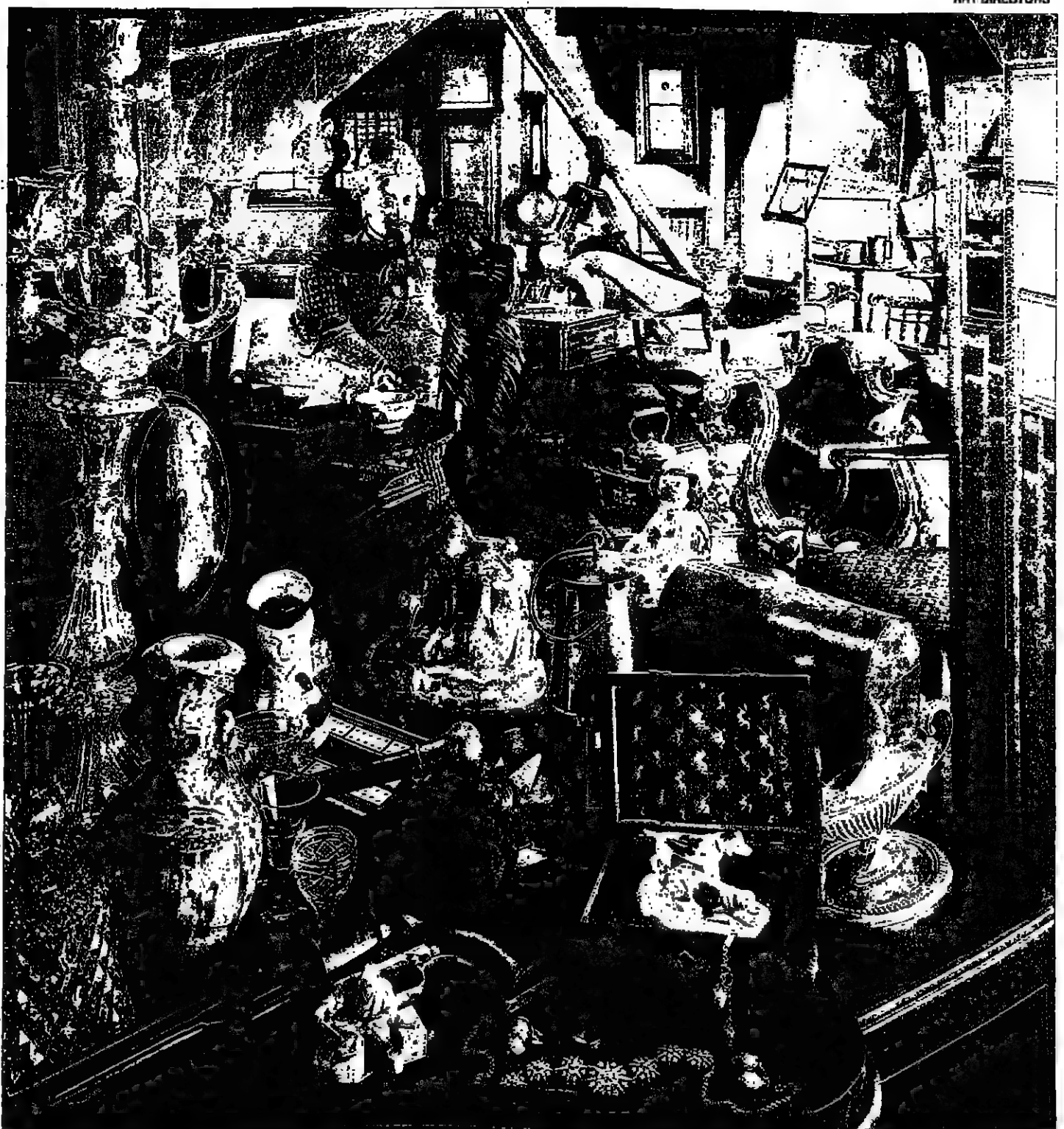
Take the Webster family (a false name for obvious reasons). They made over their large house on the outskirts of town to their only son and his wife, and moved to the lodge cottage down the drive, paying rent (it is essential that parents who give away houses and stay in them should not be seen by the law as having made a "reservation"; they must pay a market rent). Now the son has left his wife, who is insisting they sell the whole property. There is pressure on the older Websters to uproot themselves to a bungalow on a nearby modern estate, leaving the garden they built over 30 years. The son's line is: "I have my own life to live and I've got enough problems with my own family."

"Now that we've got no money left," his father observes, "we no longer appear to count as family."

That is a grim one. But Frances MacDonald hears more often from generous children. "We only get the odd greedy one. Most aren't, and quite a few say, 'Father's died, Mother wants to hand the money over, and we don't want her to'. Some even urge their parents to sabotage their inheritance by taking up a Home Income Plan, renouncing the house to provide an annuity."

These are frowned upon by some investment advisers, like Fiona Price: "We don't consider them a good bargain. Perhaps it would be better for children to buy the annuity themselves in expectation of eventually inheriting the house."

But would they? As she ruefully observes: "People are not objective. It's like when you advise a married couple to transfer assets to the lowest earner for tax reasons. And they say, 'What sign it over to her? It's mine!' Emotion always comes into it."



Worldly goods: more and more people are discovering the pleasures — and the family pitfalls — of inheriting from their parents

"But experts on emotion have not quite caught up yet. Robin Skynner, the author of *Families And How To Survive Them*, and a long-time practitioner of family therapy, regrets that his profession rarely considers finance. "We should. After all, almost everything about a person shows in their attitude to money."

Almost everything about a family, too. "My half-brother has always had everything," said Gordon, a writer. "I was jealous of his electric train when I was ten, and I'm bloody furious over the will now."

Gordon and his brother are in their fifties and the disputed sum would hardly pay their wine bill, but their spleen is real. "Wealth loads relationships," Mr Skynner says. "It makes it difficult for parents and children to become equals, which is the goal of a happy family." Or, as Richard Bark-Jones puts it: "Children trying to promote tax-saving schemes can make family relationships rather delicate." Especially when you are supposed to live on for

seven years after a major gift. "Hi, Dad, how's your chest been?" By the way, I was reading this thing about property transfer... might well be construed as a hint that dad's chest definitely sounds as if it is entering its last seven years."

Another solicitor says bluntly: "The younger generation are getting more pushy. One old couple the other day had clearly been brought into my office with the aid of levers and gads. It was like watching reluctant bullocks being loaded on to a ship."

There can be outrage when parents find out something else: that since the Inheritance (Provision for Family and Dependents) Act 1975 it is a lot harder to disinherit your children.

"Whenever we cover this," says solicitor Bill Thomas, who gives advice on the Jimmy Young show, "the switchboard practically melts. The act ended the terrible business where common-law wives had no rights, but it also means children can challenge a will within six months of probate on

the grounds that their parent has not made 'reasonable provision' for them."

"In one case a widower left everything to his second wife, but his son — a well-off executive — applied for, and got, half."

"People say this can't possibly be right, but it is. You could try explaining in your will that your children have had enough from you and the cat's home should get the rest."

"If my father tries that one," says a member of another family, "I shall tell the court he was batty." Nothing new about that; Sophocles, they say, tried to disinherit his son, who in turn tried to get him certified as senile.

Still, not every family is a snake-pit. A carefree note was sounded by one enthusiastic self-divvester, Pru Loftus, of the Suffolk brewing dynasty. Widowed at 42, she has devoted much energy to passing on the family fortune to her five children and watching what they do with it. At 70, she has given away two businesses and two houses and now pays a mortgage.

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In memory of Eric the Infallible

MID LIFE: Neil Lyndon recalls a father with political genius

The coming election will be the first I have fought in private wagers and betting shops without the guidance of my father, who died in 1989. His absence leaves me facing this electoral race like a runner without his bookie. So long as he lived, I could tie-tac swings, marginals and majorities with an accuracy which left Ladbroke's light in the till. Now that he is gone, I am left knowing no more than you or David Butler. I miss him for many reasons; but I shall feel his loss keenly in the domestic exchequer on April 10.

The Infallible Eric was Great Britain's floating voter, a cynosure of the nation's political uncertainties. Taking the pulse of his voting intentions and the capricious shades of mood which determined them provided a certain measure of what the people would decide. Compared with that unnerving instrument, the psephologists' sliderules and the Dimbleboys' swingometers were primitive tools of guesswork.

I was slow to realise my advantage in having a direct line to the electoral heart of the citizenry. In my formative years, my mother's scorn obscured the value of my father's unpredictability. She, a lady of such iron Tory inflexibility as to make Margaret Thatcher look like a wet violet, undervalued the extraordinary privilege of sharing life with a man in whom the lifeblood of parliamentary democracy coursed, now red, now blue. "Oh, him," she would jeer, "might as well listen to a tap running as to his political opinions." It wasn't until 1970, when I made this table of his voting record, that I realised that I had been blessed with a political inheritance beyond price: if I knew where Eric was going to place his X, I could win good money. For 25 years, he never put an X wrong. In eight elections, he changed his vote three times,

supporting Labour four times and Conservative four.		
Year	Eric's Vote	Result
1945	Lab	Lab
1950	Lab	Lab
1951	Con	Con
1955	Con	Con
1959	Con	Con
1964	Lab	Lab
1966	Lab	Lab
1970	Con	Con

It was the Infallible Eric who gave Attlee his landslide in the Khaki Election of 1945. It was he who gave Macmillan a 100-plus majority in 1959; and he edged Wilson into office in 1964. By 1970, I had got the measure of this treasure and, establishing that Eric had decided to vote Conservative, I bet on Heath to beat Wilson. In the first election of 1974, he



changed again and voted Labour allowing me to clean up on their slender victory. The rise in the Seventies of the third party vote made electoral punting more complicated. When he declared that he would vote Liberal in the second election of 1974, I crassly sup-

posed that a majority for Thorpe would follow and lost money on that simple-minded bet. I wasn't smart enough to see through the maze of the electoral system and realise that while Eric's whim embodied the outstanding voting trend of that election, it would not result in seats.

His last clear-cut triumph in a general election was in 1979 when he changed his vote again and booted Margaret Thatcher into Downing Street. Following the vagaries of his inconstancy in the Eighties got me into some loss-making holes. I mistakenly figured that his Alliance vote in each of the Eighties elections would result in hung parliaments. I had grown complacent on easy pickings. I should have seen that he

was giving the national pattern not in his vote but in his settled stance from start to finish. In both of those elections, his voting intentions remained unchanged throughout the campaign and, as Eric went, so went the nation.

In by-elections, however, he remained gloriously infallible. At a party in London in 1982, for instance, I bet the editors of *The Times* and the *Daily Mail* and M. Bragg Esq that Roy Jenkins would do better in Warrington than come the "poor third" they predicted. Eric had told me that if he had a vote in Warrington, it would go to the SDP. Only M. Bragg paid up. I came to think of my father as being like that family of Red Indians in *Catch-22* which invariably pitched its teepees on oil fields and was, consequently, hounded around the West by prospecting oil companies.

Nobody can guess how, if he were still here, he would be voting on April 9. Nothing that he said or did in the past supplies a sure guide. On the day before the 1987 election, I polled him for the last time and he said: "I definitely shan't be voting Tory. I shall never vote for them again in my life." Reminded that he had sworn the identical oath in 1945 and in 1966, he ruefully acknowledged that he had probably said the same thing in 1938, after Munich. But his 1987 vote was his last word: nature gave him no opportunity to change his mind again. I still see him and talk to him often in dreams. Psephological questions have not entered into this communication: if however, that shade should speak from the other side and declare a voting intention, you will not receive enlightenment through this medium: I shall be keeping it to myself and printing it on betting slips.

TOMORROW
Single life: Lynne Truss

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Cold nights on the city streets

HARRY EYRES

DAVID FALLOWS

JOHN STREET

[illegible]

هذه اعني انا

Win or lose, Kate is content

Kate Nelligan has been nominated for a Bafta and an Oscar. Matt Wolf talks to a star who began in London

When Kate Nelligan discusses the vagaries of show business, her comments have an especially authentic ring, befitting an actress whose career has had an unusually large share of ups and downs. The Canadian-born 41-year-old was the golden girl of the London stage during the Seventies, winning acclaim both on the West End and in the subsidised theatre. David Hare's *Plenty* brought her in 1982 to Broadway, in what still stands as her lone commercial success on the New York stage. Her film career started and stopped twice only to re-launch itself this past year.

Acclaimed for a versatility that previously was as much a hindrance as a help, Nelligan is now on the awards trail on both sides of the Atlantic. She's a Bafta nominee this Sunday for her performance as the brassy Cora in *Frankie and Johnny*. Eight days later she's up for a best supporting actress Oscar for playing Nick Nolte's mother in Barbra Streisand's *The Prince of Tides*.

"I still go back to the English idea that if you're an actor, your range is everything; it's how you're judged," Nelligan says over lunch at a favourite restaurant on Manhattan's Upper West Side. (So regularly does she eat there that our meal is twice interrupted by phone calls — "Very LA," she laughs.) "I'm just very confusing to people in Hollywood, because I do play leading women, and then they put me in character parts and they're amazed I can do that — not because I'm an amazing performer but because their idea of what's possible for an actor is so innately limited."

Nelligan's range has not always worked on her behalf since she occupied no particular slot in a community that likes to pigeonhole. "It's taken a long time to play Americans," she says of her career in the United States, "since they love all that English stuff, they're such Anglophiles. They wouldn't let me just say, 'You know, that was a way of speaking. I'm not that.' I'm clear enough of it now that I really can choose what I do, and people understand that I'm bilingual. But it's taken a while."

Indeed, Nelligan's stage career in Britain would be the envy of most American actresses, who do not have available to them the companies that became Nelligan's theatrical home. Born one of six children in London, Ontario, she moved from Toronto to London, England in 1969, at the age of 18. Having



A 41-year-old playing the mother of Nick Nolte: Kate Nelligan has been nominated for an Oscar as supporting actress in Barbra Streisand's *The Prince of Tides*

arrived on a scholarship, she was starting five years later on the West End in *Knockout*, the first of several theatre and television collaborations with David Hare.

From there she went to the Old Vic to play Ellie Dunn in John Schlesinger's production of *Heartbreak House* and then on to the RSC as Trevor Nunn's Rosalind in *As You Like It*. In 1979 her Susan Traherne in Hare's *Plenty* won her the Evening Standard Drama Award for best actress, but just when she seemed poised to go, it didn't belong there ever. Nelligan says of London, clearly reluctant to dredge up memories of a time that still carries no small amount of pain.

"Much to my chagrin and to the despair of everyone else, I didn't want to be a great classical actress; I

was never going to be this wonderful thing that was available to me. I didn't think I was above it or anything; I just didn't care whether I ever gave a great Portia. It's scandalous but I just have no interest in that, and it's tragic really because my life would have taken a different shape entirely if I had. It would have been a much easier life — a very sane and productive life."

Instead, Nelligan ended up in Los Angeles living in a motel on Sunset Boulevard, knowing no one, and demoralised by pounding the pavement. "I got there and no one had ever seen me or heard of me, and then when I said things like *Thérèse Raquin*, they said, 'Oh yes, public television: you're English,' and that was it. No matter how I spoke, they didn't want me to be Canadian or American because that meant I was in this endless queue of then 29-year-old actresses looking for work

and there simply was not any work." Nelligan lasted nine months "just sitting there" in California until the call came from the late Joe Papp to repeat *Plenty* at his public theatre, Off-Broadway. The play opened to better notices in New York than it ever received in London, transferred to Broadway, and led to the first of Nelligan's four Tony Award nominations. (She lost that year to Jessica Tandy, who is now a competitor for the Oscar.)

Great roles followed on Broadway in Eugene O'Neill's *A Moon for the Misbegotten* and Off-Broadway in Edna O'Brien's *Virginia* and the top of her 1985 film, *Peter Yates's Elephant*, cut short her career. "I can't tell you how my career died; I didn't work for almost two years," she recalls, sounding more bewildered than upset.

"I really don't know what happened; there have been worse cinematic crimes. But I remember John (co-star John Malkovich) saying, 'Sweetie, this is going to bury you and the fortunate thing is I don't have a career yet to bury.'"

She laughs. "And it was absolutely true." Nelligan decided to forsake the profession that had forsaken her and spent 1986 working on an inner-city theatre project involving New York children living in welfare hotels. During that time, she met the man who is now her husband, composer Robert Reale (the two will have their first child this summer), and gained a perspective some never performers never find. "It was better than going to a shrink," says Nelligan, who did not return to acting professionally until the short-lived Broadway run of Caryl Churchill's *Serious Money*, early in 1988.

"The notion that there was something to worry about in my life had gone and has stayed gone. I've never ever considered since that time that not being a movie star qualified as a valid problem."

Armed with that self-possession, Nelligan ironically finds herself closer to a sustained career than ever. And one senses that her hard-won pragmatism will see her out from here on.

In London, she recalls, "I was just miserable, personally miserable. I was just so unhappy, and I was dead right about having to leave. In New York people actually devote themselves to finding a happy life. I'm not sure that really interests the English; it interests me terribly."

● The British Academy of Film and Television Arts awards are announced on Sunday and will be broadcast on ITV. The Academy Awards are announced on March 30.

ARTS BRIEF

Prizes for Scotland

THE National Gallery of Scotland has acquired two exceptional prizes from the Earl of Leicester's Holkham Hall collection. For a combined price of £125,000 it has purchased a chalk drawing of the Virgin and Child by the great Mannerist, Parmigianino, and a more complex preparatory study for an altarpiece by the baroque master, Pietro da Cortona. Fine though the latter's *Saint Ivo intervening on behalf of the Poor* is, the Parmigianino (until recently thought to be from the hand of the artist's cousin Bedoli) is the more distinguished acquisition: a Roman-profiled Madonna clutching a naturalistically chubby infant.

Life goes on

MUSIC for Life, a day-long event incorporating jazz, theatre, songs and concerts in support of Crusaid, will be happening again at the South Bank Centre on June 7, two years after the boat trips and the office-block ballet and the restaurant opera of the first such jamboree. This time the team of artistic directors includes Nicholas Hytner, Nicholas Kenyon and Richard Mantle, who promise a new musical by the Broadway white-kid Maury Yeston, Britten's *Noy's Fludd*, Piano Circus, Judith Weir, James Bowman and the inevitable "galaxy of stars".

New leaf

ALTHOUGH it must be difficult to find a gap in the plethora of book awards, the National Art Collections Fund has found one. In June the NACF and Waterstone's Booksellers are to present the first National Art Book Prize, worth £2,000 to the winner.

Last chance...

THE enduring appeal of Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons has been underlined this month by the instant Top 20 success of a new compilation, *The Very Best of...* At 55, Valli is still able to muster the glass-threatening, falsetto shriek that graced a slew of hits including "Sherry", "Walk Like a Man", "Big Girls Don't Cry" and "Rag Doll" among many others. His 90-minute show is a slick, entertaining affair with a nostalgic cachet for anyone who recalls with fondness the heyday of the great vocal groups of the Sixties. The current British tour ends at Fairfield Halls, Croydon (081-688 9291). Tonight, Colston Hall, Bristol (0272 262957) tomorrow, Brentwood Centre, Essex (0277 262616) on Thursday.

DANCE PREVIEW

One for the boys

Brian Elias composed the music for *The Judas Tree*, a new Kenneth MacMillan ballet opening this week at Covent Garden. He explained the collaboration to Paul Griffiths

As Brian Elias puts it: "I was — well, I was gobsmacked." A composer in his early forties, with a high but so far rather confined reputation, Elias was having dinner with the MacMillans, a fortnight after the first performance of his powerful setting of Irina Raushinskaya poems for voice and orchestra. Lady Deborah, who had been at the concert, realised this was someone her husband, Sir Kenneth, ought to meet.

"I thought he was going to ask if he could choreograph the songs," says Elias, "and I was gearing myself up to say no, which was very unfair, because I now know that Kenneth has a great musical sense, and a great sense of what will work in the theatre."

"Instead of that he asked me if I'd like to collaborate on a new ballet, and I agreed right away. When you think about all the great ballet scores of this century — from *The Rite of Spring*, where we all start — then it was a great opportunity to realise all the fantasies one has on that level."

Besides that, it was a new opportunity to work in collaboration for a composer whose sparse output had until then consisted entirely of concert pieces. "Working with other people is such a treat," Elias says, "and the relationship with Kenneth has been good. I think that's partly because we both work tremendously intuitively, which implies a great deal of trust."

"He wanted the subject to be betrayal, and we worked out a structure of five sections: calm, optimism, betrayal, massacre and... something. I can't remember. But the only precise direction he gave me was that he wanted a sequence of variations, in the ballet sense, to provide solos and pas de deux to introduce the characters — though that's changing in rehearsal."

"I ought to say, too, that right from the beginning this was going to be a ballet for the boys, as many as possible, plus one girl. Certainly that coloured the musical approach. I don't know if one can use a word like 'masculine' any

more, but it's a question of approaching violence from a different point of view."

"Then I started writing the first six minutes, which make a kind of overture, laying out the material, without knowing where the whole piece was going in terms of what was happening dramatically. We talked about that as I went along, and then when I was halfway through the variations I went and played bits and pieces to Kenneth, and he was able to pick out what he liked. But he's trusted me from the word go."

The score begins, though, with a long marked silence. "Yes, I'd noticed that ballet audiences tend to chatter into the first few bars of the score, and I wanted to prevent that. But then it developed more structural significance, because the silence at the start and the silence at the end point towards the long silence there is in the middle of the piece."

I wondered if the needs of the medium had conditioned the music beyond the opening



Brian Elias: "MacMillan and I work intuitively."

silence, for instance in leading to a lot of regular rhythm. "Well, Kenneth MacMillan and Monica Mason don't find the rhythms regular at all. The way dancers count is different, and they find the rhythms in Stravinsky much clearer."

"Also, I think the influence of dance on the music is more subtle. It's a matter of phrase length, and the relationship of one phrase to the next. Often you need to repeat more, and you need to make time for people to cross the stage. I tried to make a virtue of that."

And the title? "I did a lot of reading about Judas, in the Gnostic gospels and so forth. I think I've earned my DD. A friend pointed me to a German dictionary of terms connected with Judas. I was talking to Kenneth and I mentioned the Judas tree, a Mediterranean tree that produces red flowers on the bare wood, like tears of blood. And he said: 'That's the title.'"

● The Judas Tree is premiered by the Royal Ballet at Covent Garden (071-240 1066) on Thursday at 7.30pm.

album and wait for his post-standing to rocket to No 1.

Finally, I have to correct a misunderstanding from last week over one of the most political issues in radio — the coverage of cricket. I said that it had been moved from Radio 3 to Radio 5, but in fact only the World Cup is on Radio 5 and the summer Test matches will be back on Radio 3. As for the one-day internationals, they will be on Radio 3 as well — apart from the ones on Radio 5, that is. I am so pleased to be able to clear up any confusion.

PATRICK STODDART

TELEVISION REVIEW

With the swigging sixties

There is a self-congratulatory school of thought among successful expatriate Welshmen that goes something like this: anyone with any ability packs their bags and heads out east to the England of sunshine and opportunity. Who can blame them? If *The Old Devils* (BBC 2), Andrew Davies' marvellously miserable adaptation of Kingsley Amis's study in senility, is a fair comment on the state of Wales?

"You emanate hopelessness, resentment, boredom and death," one Welsh wife informs her terminally overweight Welsh husband. There is no answer to that, except to say that fairness was never in long supply in Amis's works.

For those who assumed that most of the liquid to be found in the principality descends from the dikes here was a revised version: at least half of it issues from a bottle. On the

evidence of Episode One — in which the old devils of the title convene for strictly liquid lunches while their tut-tutting wives slosh up at Soave mornings — most of the series' budget has gone on alcohol. The title music is redolent of the swigging Sixties, but swigging is the only thing these sixtiesomethings can manage.

Into this sour-hearted coterie bursts Alun Weaver, a bombastic media Celt, who bucks the *émigré* trend by answering the call of home to compose a television essay called *In search of Wales*. One of his pub-crawling pals added the helpful subtitle: *Four Old*

Farts in a Morris Marina.

The viewers could tell Alun's well-preserved wife, Rhianon, from the other other-halves by her suave coiffure and the fact that she is the only one yet to be seen with glass in hand or in bed with Alun. Although Alun and his cronies have changed, one thing is constant: they still fancy his wife, and he still services them.

Alun's thundering rudeness is precisely captured by John Stride. He steals the show from actors charged with portraying more muted characters, though James Groux (as fat Peter, the one who emanates death) and Bernard Hepton (as constipated Malcolm) underplay nicely.

This adaptation proved that while Amis may know his Max Boyce, he also knows his August Strindberg.

JASPER REES

RADIO REVIEW

Parties go better with music

The idea of listening to *Any Questions*, on Radio 4 last Friday, was more of a duty than a delight: it seemed almost obligatory to hear how Jonathan Dimbleby would cope with the first salvoes of the official election campaign, and whether the party faithful had been ordered to mind their manners after the previous week's brawl on *Today*.

But what joy was to come, because at the appointed hour Radio 4 somehow mislaid *Any Questions*, and instead of having to listen to David Mellor and Michael Meacher mimicking their masters' voices, we were treated to

gentle music while the engineers tried to find the right plug. Sadly, they found it all too soon, but not before a wonderful idea had occurred to me.

Wouldn't it be pleasant — most agreeable, even — if the politicians accepted the fact that we are already sick of the sound of their voices, familiar with what passes for their policies and bored rigid by their abysmal debating skills? In other words, why don't they

abolish party election broadcasts and give us party election concerts instead? That way, not only would we be spared the sanctimonious interruptions to our listening over the next three weeks, but it could significantly affect the way we vote. What right-minded citizen could resist the party that substituted Pachelbel for politics? And two bars of Richard Claydeman would be more than enough to convince anyone that the politicians who

chose it were not fit to govern. Music might also reach the young voters that all politicians try so clumsily to seduce. Instead of a five-minute diatribe at Labour tax policies, the Tories would be well advised to offer Radio 1 listeners the *John Major Get-Down-And-Get-Funky Blues Hour*. And rather than wintering on for another moment about 13 years of Tory misrule, Neil Kinnock could do much worse than stick on a Simply Red

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Boys who won't be boys

Gender confusion can cause misery for children and parents. Now a clinic is helping them, Liz Hodgkinson reports

Most small children seem to have a pretty clear idea as to whether they are male or female. But some — perhaps more than we realise — appear to be confused. An otherwise perfectly normal, intelligent four-year-old boy may keep saying he wishes he was a girl like his sister, and want to dress up in her clothes. A little girl may tell everybody that she's "really" a boy. Parents may either indulge or ignore these sentiments, imagining that the child will soon grow out of such nonsense.

As they get older, the children themselves often appear to forget that they once wanted to be the opposite sex — or at least, they never mention it. And then, in adolescence, the feelings the parents imagined had disappeared may rise up all over again, with renewed intensity. A teenage boy perhaps doesn't appear to be very "masculine"; a girl never seems to grow out of her tomboy stage. A "feminine" teenage boy may secretly start raiding his mother's wardrobe, or amass lip-stick and other cosmetics. Parents may be horrified to discover such a hoard. An awkward adolescent girl shows no interest whatever in fashion and absolutely refuses to wear a dress on any occasion.

It is for children like these, and their worried parents and teachers, that child psychiatrist Dr Domenico Di Ceglie has founded Britain's first gender identity development clinic. The idea came to him about eight years ago when a 16-year-old boy was referred to him for therapy. "He was transsexual," Dr di Ceglie says, "and told me sadly that he felt it was already too late for him to have help. He said that although his parents and other relatives must have realised something was wrong, nobody ever said or did anything about it."

"I felt then that this teenager was probably not the only young person in the world who had such problems. And although true transsexuality — where people go to the lengths of sex reassignment surgery — may be rare, some degree of gender identity confusion in children is much more common," Dr di Ceglie stresses that his job is not to try to "cure" such children but to attempt to understand them.

Most of all, he wants to provide a climate where children, parents, and teachers can begin talking about the problem, rather than pretending it doesn't exist, or hoping that if they ignore it, it will go away. "Nobody knows where gender identity confusion starts," he says. "Usually, parents blame themselves and feel that it's somehow their fault. They may have wanted, or hoped for, a girl, but had a boy — and then feel guilty about their wishes. Or they may imagine that they have somehow caused the confusion by the way they've been treating their child."

"At the clinic, we try to have an open mind and reassure parents that the problem is not of their making but is something entirely

inside the child's head. We explain that gender confusion is not a conscious choice but something the child can't help."

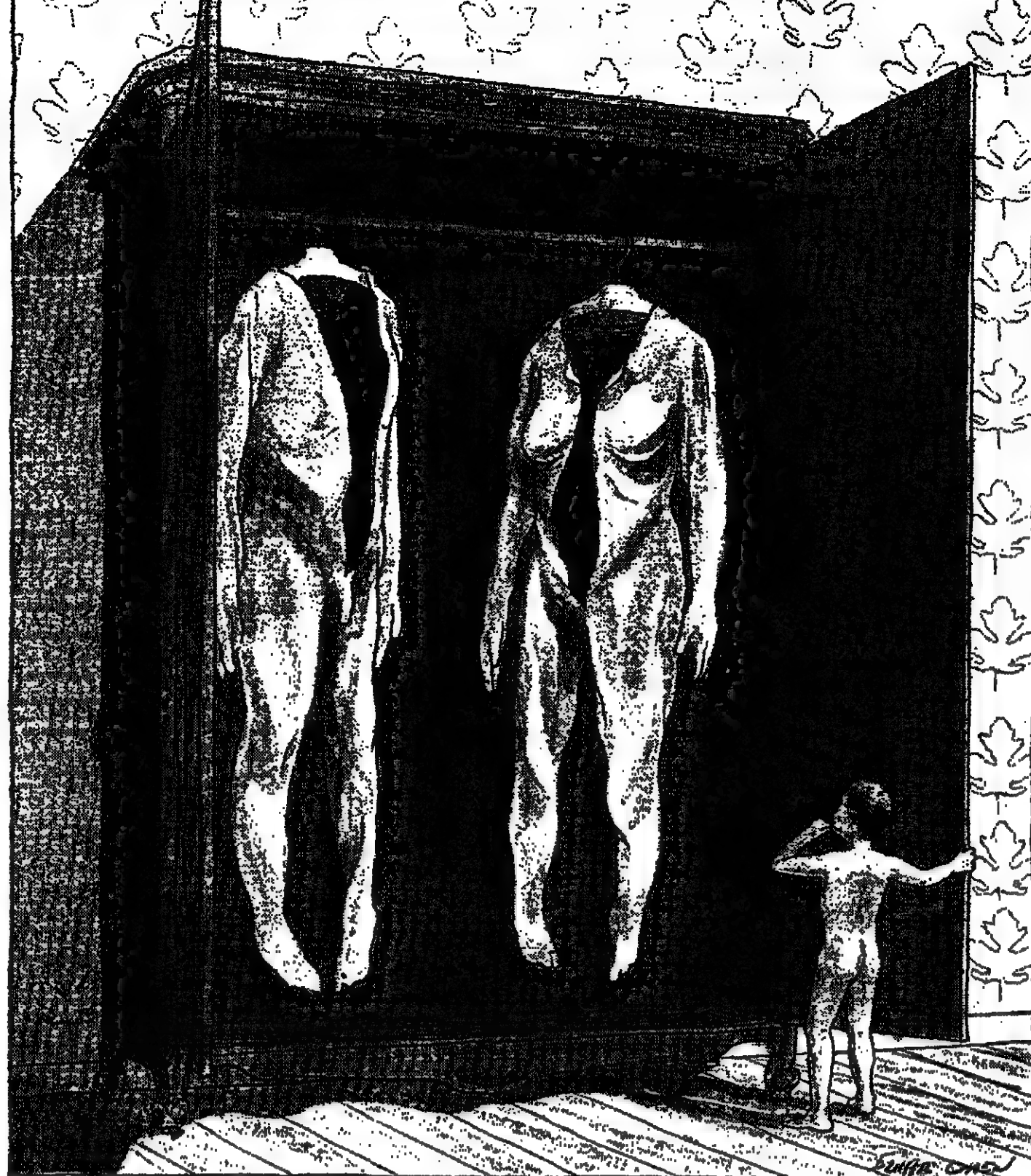
"I came to realise," says Dr di Ceglie, whose NHS clinic is at the child psychiatry department of St George's Hospital, Tooting, in London, "that the worst thing adults can do is to ignore the situation. This causes immense suffering, and leads the child to be secretive and underhand. What it doesn't do is make the problem disappear, just go underground." This secrecy makes the problem more acute and more complicated than it need be, according to Dr di Ceglie.

"Once the parents can face and accept what is happening, and start to talk about it, behavioural and emotional problems can often be avoided. Parents ignore it because it's painful and difficult for them. But we have to try to get the parents to accept their child and appreciate that their feelings are very strong and completely genuine. Otherwise, children who are confused about their gender identity tend to sink into despair, feeling that nobody in the world understands them." In adolescence, they may attempt suicide. Very often, they refuse to go to school because they are bullied, or because teachers try to make them behave in a way they believe is more appropriate to their biological sex.

That is exactly what happened to Paul, aged nine, who came to the clinic with his mother. Paul was being bullied at school and a teacher had noticed his extremely "cissy" behaviour. It turned out that Paul had been dressing up in female clothes since he was a toddler. His mother had a picture of him at 13 months, tottering around in her high heels. "We thought it was rather sweet then," she said. "But he kept wanting to wear girl's clothes. He seemed to have grown out of it but when I was going through his drawers, I found a whole stack of female clothes hidden there. I was horrified."

At first, Paul's father wanted to have nothing to do with the clinic but, eventually, he was persuaded to go along and face the possibility that his son may turn out to be homosexual, transsexual or transvestite in later life — and that no "cure" would ever be available. "We explained to Paul's parents that there was probably nothing they could do to make him more 'masculine'," Dr di Ceglie says, "but they could help him by understanding he had a genuine problem." Paul is now 11, at comprehensive school, still very feminine but, because his parents are now on his side rather than against him, he is bright and cheerful, and has been persuaded to play down his "feminine" behaviour when in the company of other boys.

At a time when many parents and teachers are trying to break down rigidly stereotyped gender roles, what does gender identity confusion mean? Is there really something wrong with a little boy



who wants to play with dolls, or a girl who likes guns and train sets? "No, of course not," Dr di Ceglie says. "Difficulties arise where there is complete rigidity and intensity on the child's part. If a girl, for instance, only ever wants to play with boys, or feels out of place in the company of girls and can't seem to identify with members of her own sex, then she may be confused about her identity."

"It seems to have very little to do with upbringing or environment, although there may be parental influences. Nor does it have anything to do with what other people might think. We are talking about a confusion between gender identity and gender role." For example, some people thought that when she was prime minister, Mrs Thatcher often acted more like a man than a woman. She may have

seemed to exhibit qualities that many people consider masculine. "But she's never been in any way confused," Dr di Ceglie says, "as far as she is concerned, she is a perfectly normal woman."

"We are not talking about what is considered standard masculine or feminine behaviour but where the child truly believes that he or she has got quite the wrong kind of body, that there is a severe mismatch between the gender of the body and the gender that's inside the head."

When there is genuine confusion, it is not known whether any amount of therapy or treatment can make a child not want to be, or not imagine he or she really is a member of the opposite sex. It is a fixed, unalter-

able belief which never vanishes, however much the child may try to conform to parental expectations in later life. It is not a mental illness or handicap, and the child may be quick, clever and high-achieving.

Dr di Ceglie feels it is important to distinguish between gender and sexuality. "Sexual orientation usually only happens later," he says, "and there are all sorts of combinations. Our work here has shown us that it is impossible to predict the outcome of early gender confusion."

"Some children will become transsexual and, in later life, seek sex reassignment surgery. Some will become homosexual or lesbian, while others will turn out to be heterosexual. Some may become transvestite, just wanting to cross-dress occasionally."

As this has never really come out into the open until now, says Dr di Ceglie, nobody has any real idea how common childhood gender confusion may be.

"What we are doing is naming it, acknowledging it. We try to help parents to understand what their child is going through and see that they have not chosen to feel that way. Parents cannot necessarily change gender identity problems but they can help their children by listening. At our clinic, we are not creating a problem but trying to understand something which already exists, and which so often causes both parents and children untold anguish."

The Gender Identity Development Clinic can be contacted at the Department of Child Psychiatry, St George's Hospital, 081 672 4291.

Randy gets the giggles

Choosing a name has hidden dangers

I never really thought much of a cultural gap existed between me and my husband until we started choosing names for our first-born. I am American and he is British: we speak the same language, come from similar backgrounds and see eye to eye on most questions of style. My ancestors come from the north of England, quite close to where he spent most of his childhood.

But when I first told him I thought Tracy was a nice girl's name and Trevor was a possibility if we had a boy, he all but filed for divorce. It was then I began to understand just how complex trans-cultural naming can be.

Some countries even have laws regulating the naming of children. A law passed in Napoleon's time still gives the French government the right to disallow "ridiculous" names and substitute other, more suitable, appellations. There would be no Russells or Taylors in Norway, as a law forbids first names that sound like last names (a practice, incidentally, which is all the rage in America).

Even without legal interference, trans-cultural naming is complicated. The biggest difference between Britain and the United States is that American names don't carry the social baggage they do in Britain. American names, like American accents, don't give much away when it comes to class. In the United States, boys named Derek are expected to attend ivy league colleges along with Richard and Thomas, and girls named Beverly can walk unnoticed at the same debutante balls attended by Jane, Charlotte and Fiona.

If Trevor is the quintessential working-class name in Britain, he can be found frequently in the 1992 Social Registry, the American equivalent of Burke's Peerage. And according to a popular American naming book called *Beyond Jennifer & Jason: An Enlightened Guide to Naming Your Baby*, Trevor is considered to be "on the

Parents must also watch out for the American custom of nicknaming. In my own family there are names like Muz, Tink, Dime, Buzzy, Binky and Muffy

cutting edge of fashion, combining the style of upper-crust England with the élan of the leather bomber jacket."

During my last few months of pregnancy I found myself obsessed with guessing which names went with what class. "What about Kyle? That's considered quite fashionable in America," I'd say hopefully to my husband. "Couldn't possibly," he'd smirk, "next!"

It's not that I wanted one of those made-up names that Americans often try to pass off as real, like Dree, Marie, Hemingway's daughter. I've seen my share of kids named Dawn, Blue, Camden and Dweezil, and I wouldn't dream of doing that to my child.

Parents also have to watch out for the American custom of nicknaming. And I don't just mean turning James into Jim. We're talking hard-core familiarity here: within my own family there are names like Muz, Tink, Dime, Buzzy, Binky and Muffy.

Many of the so-called "normal" names in America don't exist in Britain. Ever met an English Marlie, Britanny, Kayla, Morgan, Todd or Courtney?

The names Randolph and Randall, which are popular in the United States, illustrate this problem best, however. "People always giggle and smirk in England when I put out my hand and say, 'Hi, I'm Randy,'" laments one American lawyer friend of mine. "Some names just don't translate well."

For a while I thought Ian or Isadora might go well with Riley-Adams. Consider, however, the fate of a child who is tagged with the initials IRA in Britain. It's not so bad in America, where IRA conjures images of the Individual Retirement Account.

Another problem my husband and I ran into was how certain names are viewed in relation to the national events. Consider our final two front-runners: Sam and Ella. Say it three times fast and it becomes obvious why both names are probably not acceptable for a brother and sister. But while Sam and Ella would most likely prompt a giggle from most English people excluding Edwina Currie, my American family didn't quite get the joke. Salmonella hadn't hit the headlines in California.

RENÉ RILEY-ADAMS

Truths out of the mouths of babes

When a child claims to know, see or hear God, it is easy for an adult to dismiss this as fantasy, neurosis or sickness. Dr Robert Coles, psychiatrist and analyst, has spent 30 years working with children, many from deprived families or ethnic minorities in communities disturbed by violence. Having begun from a sceptical Freudian base, Dr Coles says he is humbled by what he has learnt of religious belief from children as young as eight. Dr Coles, professor of psychiatry at Harvard University, criticises clergy and parents for patronising children engaged in a spiritual search. "Children are not given enough credit for seeing through the hypocrisy, the at times fatuous consumerism that goes under the name of religion. What I have found in children is some of the old, wonderful iconoclastic side of religion that informs prophetic Judaism and early Christianity."

"These children say Jesus was a poor man and did not associate with big shots. Some of these big shots are now called cardinals, rectors, bishops."

Dr Coles began working with children in the 1950s, at the height of psychoanalytic orthodoxy, often turning his patients into "reductive putty". His approach was changed by a combination of forces. A Roman Catholic girl called Connie, aged eight, made him take her religious life seriously after confronting him with his own incredulity. From seeing her spiritual life as evidence

A psychiatrist has been humbled by the fresh religious beliefs of children

of a disturbed mind, he began to understand how it kept the child together psychologically.

He read Erik Erikson, who had been analysed by Anna Freud in Vienna. Ms Freud herself, when he met her in London, sanctioned his change of direction with the advice that he learn from the children rather than label them sick.

Dr Coles's researches have taken him to Northern Ireland, England and Sweden and around America. In his book *The Spiritual Life of Children* (HarperCollins, £9.99), published this week, he relates some of the religious conversations he shared. His debates with devout Muslim boys in London are among the most enlightening.

"I was fascinated by the way these children are making an accommodation between their Islamic faith and their experience in England. One Muslim boy drew a self-portrait with the symbols of the Muslim faith on his head, and a Christmas tree in his torso. He was telling me that he is half secular materialist, and half Islamic. He was entranced by the seductions of the Christian west, while trying to hold on to his Islamic faith."

Another boy, Sajid, the Muslim son of a baker, analyses his own nightmare as a warning from Allah. Twelve-year-old Asif wanted to be a pilot, to bring him closer to Allah. "I'd say my prayers on the plane, and He might hear them better up there. It must be hard for Him, when all of us pray to Him in the mosque!"

Dr Coles also worked with Protestant and Catholic children in Northern Ireland. "What was interesting was the way the children were able to speculate on what has happened to Christianity, how it has become an instrument of malice, mischief and even murder. The children on both sides have noticed this, and they ask: How, in the name of the life of Jesus and of his teachings, has such warfare become the order of the day?"

"Most poignantly, they will ask what Jesus must think of what is going on in Belfast. They are giving expression to the betrayal of Christianity in the name of Christianity. At the same time, they are trying to obey their parents, to become good Catholics and good Protestants."

He reflects sadly on their future. "Some were already becoming involved in the violence. I suspect as they get older they will just forget some of that spirit, wonder and perplexity."

Dr Coles worships with his wife, Jane Halliwell, a writer on women's issues, at an Episcopal church near his home in Concord, Massachusetts. His own beliefs vary. "There are



Christ raising Lazarus from the dead: Dr Robert Coles has collected children's spiritual drawings

times when I can find myself comfortable sitting in a church, and feeling myself persuaded and convinced. There are other times when I am sceptical and agnostic. I am not always carried along by religious dogma."

"I feel close to the prophetic Judaism of Isaiah, Jeremiah, Amos and Micah, and to the moral and spiritual message Jesus gave us during his life here. My work with children has helped me to understand what Jesus had in mind when he pointed out that there has to be a kind of child-like posture for all of us if we are to approach religion with any chance of getting its message."

He has accumulated 293 pictures of God, most portraits of His face, all by Christian children. Jewish and Islamic youngsters are quick to tell him that God, Allah and Muhammad are not to be pictured.

One boy attempted to depict the Trinity, and drew the sun as the face of God, the earth as the incarnation, and the rainbow, which appears on earth but owes its existence to the sun, as the Holy Ghost. Dr Coles was awed.

"To be sure, he had been given some advice along those lines at home, but then, in the fresh

presence of his picture, had shown a boy's independent spiritual life, to be sturdy, affecting and persuasive."

Dr Coles, whose three sons are now adults, says: "It has been a remarkable and at times humbling experience to listen to these children speculate on matters spiritual."

He used to take his children to Sunday school while he and his wife went to church. "Now, to tell you the truth, I am more interested in going to Sunday school than to church. I find it more interesting to listen to the children than to the minister."

RUTH GLEDHILL

power steering at work

the YHA

Even the influence of a peer and a theatrical knight might not be able to save Bagnor from a bypass it fears, Jon Stock reports

Power steering at work

Tucked away in a garage behind a beautiful 17th-century manor house, two mechanics are busily tuning the engine of a 1960s Aston Martin. Wheelclamped for security, it stands alongside a Ferrari, a Mercedes Sports, and two vintage touring cars, all the playthings of Lord Palumbo, the chairman of the Arts Council.

A hundred yards down the road, the venerable actor Sir Michael Hordern is in reflective mood, looking out from his estate cottage across Rack Marsh nature reserve, where the River Lambourn meanders. Nearby, the first guests are gathering in the pale evening sunlight, mingling on the lawns of an ancient watermill, now home to a thriving theatre. One of the Watermill Theatre's main sponsors is Hanson plc. Lord Hanson lives at the other end of the lane.

This is Bagnor, a tiny village two miles outside Newbury and one of England's unofficial seats of power. Set in idyllic Berkshire surroundings, with Donnington Castle perched on the hillside behind, Bagnor boasts more than its fair share of influential public figures—at least at weekends. The village, however, is under threat and so far none of its powerful residents has been able to do anything about it.

The transport department is shortly to begin building the long-awaited Newbury bypass, which will provide the final link in the A34 trunk road. The project was first mooted in the 1950s and entered the government road programme in 1971. A public exhibition was held in 1982.

A western route was finally agreed in 1988, in preference to an eastern route, at a lengthy public enquiry. On its journey via Enborne across the Kennet valley, the dual carriageway will pass through the easternmost end of Bagnor (slicing off a part of one garden), up beyond Donnington castle and on, to rejoin the A34 north of Newbury just before the M4 intersection.

The road will pass within 200 metres of Sir Michael Hordern's cottage and he and the others believe it will destroy the village's

tranquillity. "It is an abomination," says Sir Michael, who has lived in Bagnor since 1958. "This road is going to make a giant slash across the whole countryside. There are a lot of people who walk all over this area. It will be an enormous loss to everyone. They talk about compensation. But what use is that to me? I am in the last years of my life."

The choice of route was taken amid scenes of much passion and anger, and the decision still divides the town today. "It was like the civil war all over again, east versus west. You have never seen anything like it," recalls Dorothy Morley, a former chairman of the Society for the Prevention of the Western Bypass. Spewby, as it is known, was formed in 1982 by local residents. Under the patronage of Sir Michael, its 300 members continue to oppose a Western route.

Spewby does not deny that Newbury is desperately in need of a bypass. As far as many Newbury residents are concerned, however, Spewby's continued opposition is merely delaying a much needed relief road. The environment, say Spewby's critics, is not just about pretty villages like Bagnor: it is about a grid-locked Newbury High Street every afternoon. Judith Chaplin is the Conservative party's prospective parliamentary candidate for Newbury, and is also John Major's personal political secretary. "The Newbury bypass is desperately needed by the town," she says. "The current road is very congested. I want them to get on with the western bypass as soon as possible."

Further delay seems likely. The controversy at Twyford Down in Hampshire, where locals and environmentalists are objecting to the final link of the M3 Winchester bypass, has refocused attention on Newbury. Roger Higman, of Friends of the Earth, believes the cases are very similar.

"Both roads are the last links in much bigger projects. The choices of route offered by government for debate gave environmentalists little chance to prevent the damage."



Peace of England: the village of Bagnor pictured from Rack Marsh Nature Reserve. The final link in the Newbury bypass threatens the eastern edge of the reserve

The Newbury bypass was not, however, singled out for special mention by Carlo Ripa di Meana, the EC environment commissioner, in his recent controversial letter to the British government. In it, he alleged that a 1988 EC directive on environmental impact assessments should apply retrospectively to "pipeline" schemes such as Twyford Down, the Channel Tunnel and five other projects. Friends of the Earth and Spewby have since contacted Signor Ripa di Meana and his office has confirmed that it is now looking into the Newbury case.

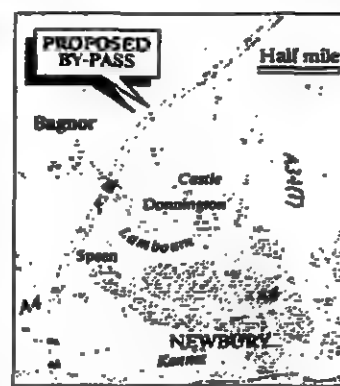
Objectors to the western route do not believe that sufficient environmental studies were carried out before approval was given, a claim which the transport department denies. "The Newbury bypass is a 'pipeline' scheme," said David Read, a DoT spokesman, "and a formal environmental statement was not issued under the terms of the EC directive. None the less, the department considers the procedures complied

with the spirit of the directive. The environmental impact of the scheme was thoroughly debated at the 1988 public enquiry."

Next week, on March 24, another public enquiry is due to be held in Newbury, to discuss compulsory purchase orders. Although the choice of route is not formally on the agenda, Spewby hopes that the enquiry will be coloured by the recent clash between Brussels and Whitehall.

The original public enquiry was characterised, perhaps more than most, by intense lobbying on both sides. Against the eastern route, the Jockey Club made its feelings clear about the prospect of a dual carriageway passing 50 metres from Newbury racecourse. Newbury is also a fast expanding town. Property developers lobbied hard for a western route, as it would create more housing development inside the bypass route than the more populated eastern side.

Given the number of important



people living in their village, Bagnor's residents felt that they had a chance of successfully resisting a western route. Legend has it that Nimby with influence, such as Lord Palumbo and Hanson, are the bane of every civil servant. In truth, Bagnor's celebrities were unable to bend the ears of anyone of significance.

Lord Palumbo did, however, have the wealth to finance a strong legal presence at the first public

enquiry. Lord Hanson gave his support to Spewby, and Sir Michael Hordern delivered an impassioned, half-hour performance prompting a standing ovation.

Now, as far as Lord Palumbo is concerned, the arguments have changed. Twyford Down, he believes, has made the European Commission's intervention at Newbury a possibility. Although his office plays down his connections with Eurocrats, Lord Palumbo undoubtedly has a number of good contacts in Brussels. "It seems to me to be an act of irreversible environmental vandalism, prompted by short term expediency based on cost," he says. "It will threaten the unique character of that whole area of west Berkshire."

Formerly the focus of local dissent, Lord Palumbo is now being seen as a potential saviour by the locals. Bagnor is a small village with 21 houses, five of them tied cottages. Its shop owners, retired doctors and farm labourers lead quiet, modest lives. The larger

than life Lord Palumbo was always going to make a splash.

After buying Bagnor Manor in 1986, he tidied up the estate—and then accused the locals of dropping litter everywhere. He also made it clear that he had no intention of mixing with the village. He sought planning permission for an architectural folly and proposed to install a modern sculpture, consisting of 1,100 life-sized scarlet soldiers on a hillside. He has since dropped both plans, neither of which went down well with the locals. All is now forgiven, as John Newbrook, the landlord of the Blackbird, Bagnor's only pub, explains.

"Lord Palumbo is now doing everything in his power to keep the place rural. It's very good of him to take up this cause. Surely he can do something, seeing as he has so many friends in high places. He is our last hope." It is doubtful whether such blind faith is justified. In reality, there is not much anyone can do at such a late stage.

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Is the YHA going soft?

In a country youth hostel, I once saw a youngster turn on a gas tap in the kitchen and hold a match to the gas ring on the counter beneath. She had not noticed that the connecting rubber tube was missing, so the gas simply poured out of the wall until it caught light with a boom. Fortunately, the flames were killed with wet tea towels and no one was hurt.

In many ways, this scene sums up the endearingly makeshift spirit of the traditional British hostel as set up by the Youth Hostel Association (YHA).

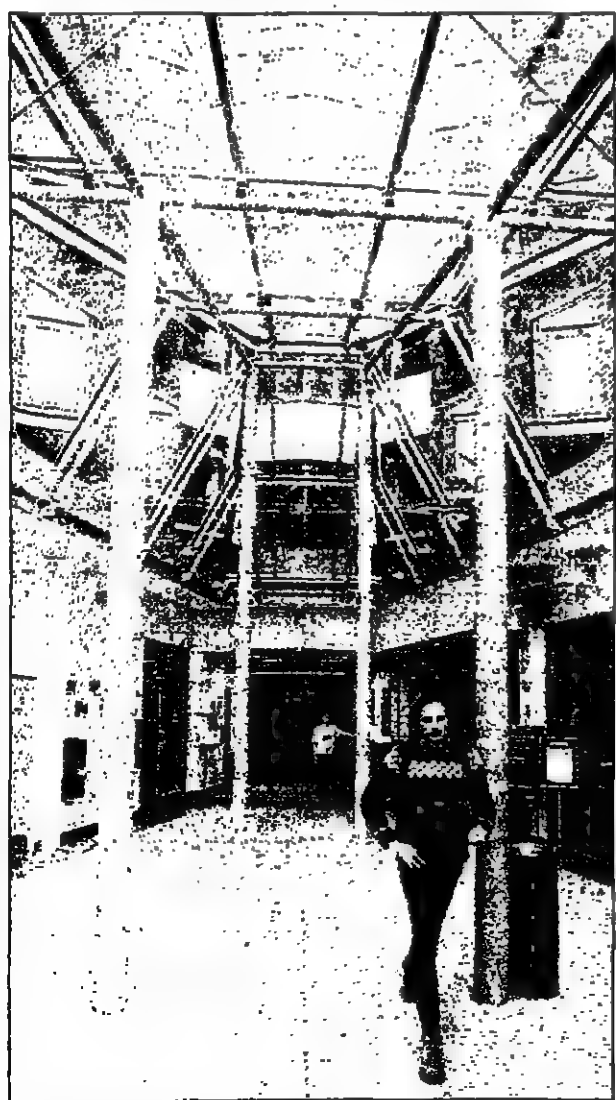
But at its newest hostel in Rotherhithe, south-east London, installed with Philips "Whirlpool" electric easy-clean ceramic hobs, there is just not the same scope for blowing up the kitchen. The 320-bed hostel opened at the end of last year in a new, £5.5 million, five-storey building. The cookers are typical of the standard of fittings throughout. This has angered traditionalists, who feel that the association has no business running hostels with bunks.

There used to be an unwritten law at all youth hostels. You arrived in the evening, deposited your steaming outdoor clothes in the drying room, cooked your meal in the communal kitchen, spent an hour or two yarning with strangers in the common room, and went to bed in the single-sex dorm. Next morning, you often had to do a cleaning chore before leaving. You were not allowed back in again until evening.

But the problem, according to the YHA's London director, Terry Stoddart, was that the association was losing money. In 1981, it decided to become "marketing led". Twenty of its least profitable hostels were sold, and others earmarked for upgrading, including the five London hostels, which had always been the most profitable.

At Rotherhithe, plastic security cards offer visitors a 24-hour access. There is a range of dormitory sizes, right down to a twin-bedded room for couples, married or not. There are no chores—the cleaning is contracted out. Most amazing of all, there is a bar, although Mr Stoddart is

Farewell to communal kitchens and single-sex dorms—youth hostels are fighting back with a touch of luxury



Height of luxury: Rotherhithe hostel even has a bar

quick to point out that it only has a table licence.

Across the river, the Carter Road Youth Hostel (as it used to be known) re-opened for business a fortnight ago, after a two-year refurbishment. The City of London YHA (as it is now known) stands within sight of the steps of St Paul's, in a magnificent, listed Victorian building that was once the choir school. The exterior is decorated with terracotta and rare sgraffito work. But inside the modernisation is complete. The split-level restaurant has

a suspended ceiling and a screen dividing the counter and eating area.

This will be small comfort to the traditionalists, to whom a restaurant has no place in a hostel. Rotherhithe has one too, but at least it offers the choice of a self-catering kitchen: Carter Road does not. "We're no longer aimed just at youths or hostellers," explains the manager, Robin Tuttle. "It's budget accommodation." A room for the night, both here and at Rotherhithe, costs £12-16, twice the price of a London

youth hostel a few years ago.

Mr Stoddart says that the association had no choice but to upgrade. Some of its London hostels were in danger of being closed down by the environmental health authorities. It seems the association cannot get away with things in the city that it does in the country.

On an evening in March, three of Rotherhithe's "hostellers" (one German, one Canadian, one Scottish) turn out to be working in television and staying in the hostel temporarily. "It seems rather suave, for a hostel," observes the Scot, Andrew Skranke, who has never been hostelling before.

Eventually a more typical youth hostelling couple enters: a man with a big, grey beard and his son, who is wearing a Bart Simpson T-shirt. Both are called Simon Wheatcroft, and are on a visit to London from their home in Gillingham.

The father has long hostelling experience. "Tanner's Hatch," he says reflectively, referring to a hostel in Surrey famous for having no electricity, "that's a nice little place." "It's a hovel," counters his son. "This one has TVs and arcade games."

When a hostel is located three miles up a muddy track from the nearest road, it is possible to guess what its customers are after. In London, Mr Stoddart explains, choice is important. Rotherhithe is intended for families and tourist parties (it is well located for access to the Channel ports). Those who want a (slightly) cheaper and more basic traditional hostel can stay in Highgate Village or Hampstead Heath.

The senior Mr Wheatcroft, who looks as if he might have dealt competently with many a kitchen explosion in his time, is not convinced. "Years ago you put a bucket of water in the river to wash yourself," he says. But he acknowledges, "This is a city hostel. And I'm enjoying my stay."

CALLUM MURRAY

Rotherhithe Youth Hostel, Salter Road, London SE16 1LY (071-232 2114); City of London Youth Hostel, 36 Carter Lane, London EC4V 5AD (071-236 4965).

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Making ruins out of mountains

Michael McCarthy reports on the royal charity, Alp Action, which aims to save the Alps from environmental ruin

The Alps may be beautiful, but they are in trouble. Last week, the European Parliament warned that development was pushing towards the limits of what was environmentally acceptable, and that this year's Winter Olympics at Albertville had done "serious environmental damage".

France had ignored EC environmental protection laws to clear slopes for the ski-runs and build and extend multi-lane highways through the mountains.

This was just the latest of the insults to hit the Alps, Europe's winter playground. Air pollution, soil erosion, excessive development and tourism are putting the mountains under intolerable pressure. Ian White, the British Socialist MEP, told the parliament that there should be community-wide legislation to ensure that areas such as the Alps were not subject to "nationalistic exploitation".

Scientists who study the Alps are worried. They fear that deforestation and soil erosion could threaten more than just the mountains, because most of Europe's great rivers — the Rhine, the Rhône, the Danube (through the River Inn) and the Po — rise in the Alps. Catastrophic flooding is one possibility, although recent years have been so dry as to suggest the opposite danger, of sources drying up.

A strategy to save the Alps from environmental ruin is to be drawn up by Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, the United Nations' principal troubleshooter for relief and refugee emergencies.

The Geneva-based prince is turning from 35 years of UN work, to leading the fight to

preserve Europe's largest mountain chain.

Alp Action, a charity he set up two years ago, is to sponsor the first comprehensive conservation plan, economic, social and environmental, for the Alps as a single ecosystem, the prince said this month.

An initial draft of the plan should be launched next February at the World Economic Forum, the annual gathering of international business leaders and finance ministers, in the Swiss mountain resort of Davos. "It seems the most appropriate place," he said.

Prince Sadruddin, who was the UN High Commissioner for Refugees from 1965 to 1977 and the UN relief co-ordinator in Iraq after the Gulf war, was considered in many quarters a strong candidate to succeed Javier Pérez de Cuellar as UN Secretary General last November. A decade earlier,

only a Russian veto had kept him from assuming the position in Señor Pérez de Cuellar's place.

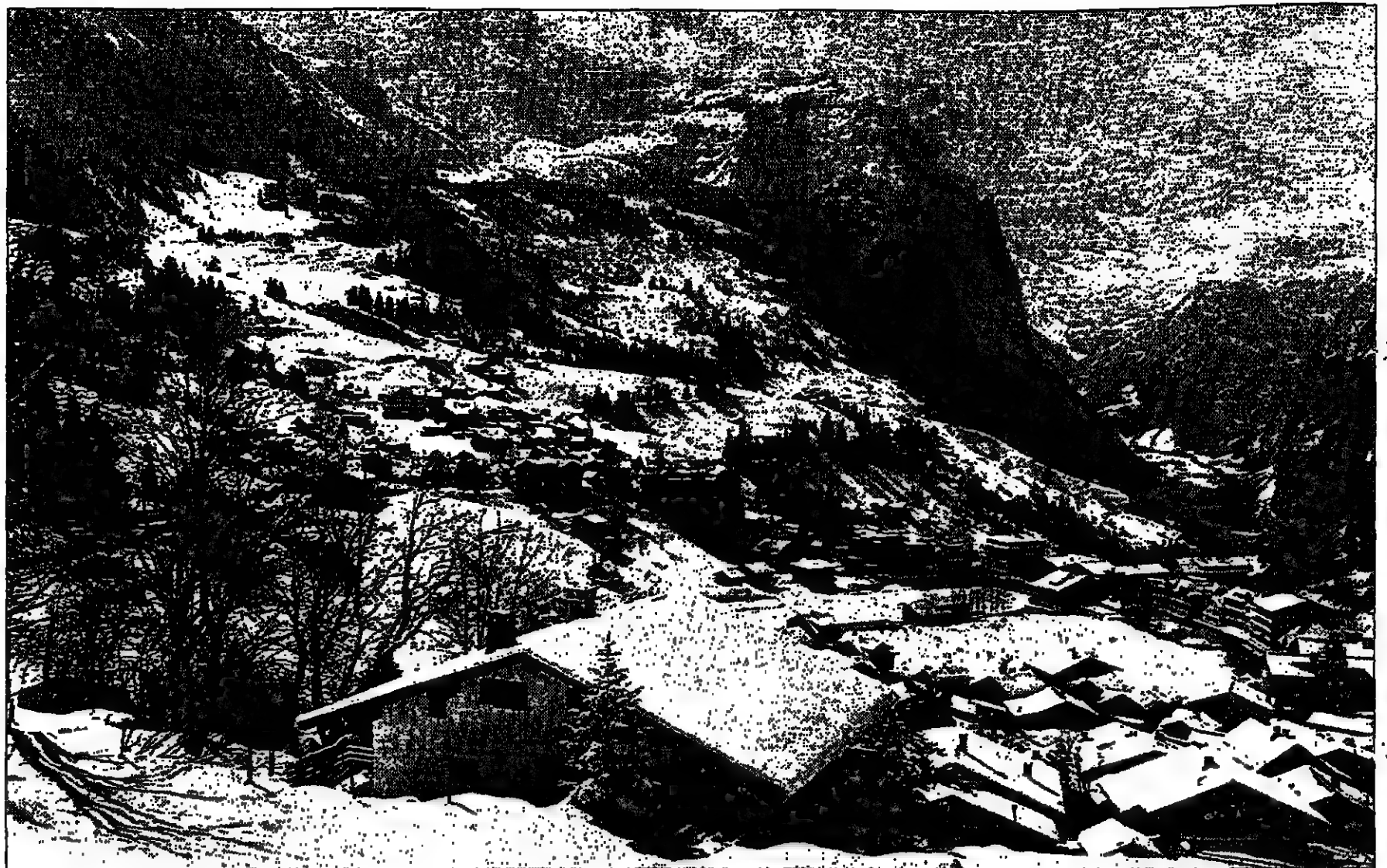
However, the appointment of the Egyptian Boutros Boutros Ghali has now caused the 59-year-old prince, the uncle of Karim, the present Aga Khan, to re-order his priorities, and he said in an interview with

The Times that while he will be on stand-by for emergency UN missions, he will be devoting much more time to his environmental interests. "Since my youth, I have been marked by my life in the Swiss Alps," said the prince who was educated in Lausanne and Gstaad.

In producing an alpine conservation strategy he will be filling a crucial policy gap, as the



Prince Sadruddin



A rocky future: scientists worry that air pollution, soil erosion, excessive development and increasing tourism are putting the Alps under intolerable pressure

extension of the alpine range through seven countries has left the conservation effort, and development control, fragmented and hitherto ineffectual.

The proliferation of ski lifts, chalets and even whole new concrete villages at 6,000 feet has been largely unrestricted, while the mountain road network bears 20 per cent of all passengers and 15 of all goods transported in

western Europe, by nature of its position at the continent's hub.

Acid rain, caused by traffic fumes, is severely affecting alpine forests and along with mushrooming resort development, has contributed to alarming mountain erosion and reduction of wildlife. Traditional alpine farming communities are disappearing as the seasonal economy of winter sports and summer tourism takes over.

The difficulty for the prince's plan is that the economic vested interests pushing development, and resultant environmental degradation, will be hard to check.

In November in Salzburg the seven alpine countries — France, Italy, Switzerland, Germany, Austria, Yugoslavia and Liechtenstein — signed the Alpine Convention, a framework treaty full of good intentions. However, the treaty's

teeth, individual protocols on tourism, traffic, mountain agriculture and nature conservation, will be very much harder to negotiate, if they are signed at all.

Some of the Swiss mountain cantons are objecting that "ecological interests" are going to hold up their development. There is only one answer, the prince says. "We must carry the mountain communities with us. We do not

want to seem elitist, telling them how to run their lives."

In drawing up its plan, Alp Action will seek to build a consensus among the *montagnards* that preserving their environment is in their own best interests, the prince says. "In particular if we are asking them to refrain from development sometimes, we must ask ourselves what economic alternatives we can offer them."



For now: figures show that there is no ozone hole over Britain

Ozone intact

IN SPITE of headlines about ozone damage, measurements by the National Radiological Protection Board show no evidence of an increase in ultra-violet radiation over Britain, *Nigel Hawkes writes*.

The NRPB measures ultra-violet at three sites in Britain: its headquarters at Chilton in Oxfordshire, at Leeds and at Glasgow. Over the past month, the measurements show roughly similar levels to those found at the corresponding period in the past three years. These figures make it clear that at present, at least, there is no ozone hole over Britain.

The staff of English Nature, who were advised last month to consider wearing sunglasses and a barrier cream as they went about their business, need not be too concerned. "It's very important to continue monitoring, but the data doesn't show any significant amounts of radiation," says Dr Colin Driscoll of NRPB.

"If we started to pick up values typical of May in February, then that would be out of the ordinary."

Increased ultra-violet radiation

would be the most serious consequence of an ozone hole, since it is the ozone that shades the earth's surface at these wavelengths. The wavelengths of the greatest concern are those that cause sunburn, between 280 and 320 nanometres, which are classified as UVA. The longer-wavelength UVA (320-400 nm) is less dangerous.

The NRPB would like to establish a Europe-wide network to monitor for UVA, stretching from the Canary Islands in the south (latitude 25 degrees N) to Thule in Greenland (80 degrees N). The idea is to set up about 30 sites in 11 countries, using the same instruments that are already in use in Britain, to provide comparable figures for the whole of Europe.

Each system would cost about £7,000 to set up, complete with computers to record the readings, and the network could be running within two years. The NRPB has applied to the European Commission for a grant. A team from the University of Reading has also put in a bid, although their proposal is slightly different.

Celestial fireworks and the Christmas pud

A fine display of celestial fireworks has bewildered. Sudden bursts of gamma rays, emerging apparently from nowhere then disappearing just as rapidly, have defied explanation. Nobody knows where they come from, how they are formed, or what they mean.

The amounts of energy involved are staggering. According to Carl Fichtel, of NASA's Goddard Space Flight Centre, three sources he has found are emitting between 10 million and 100 million times as much gamma ray energy as the entire Milky Way galaxy.

Dr Fichtel told the American Astronomical Society in January: "In one week, the energy emitted is the same as if you had annihilated the entire mass of the sun."

Gamma ray bursts were discovered by accident. Concerned that the former Soviet Union might be preparing to cheat on the treaty banning atmospheric nuclear testing, the United States in 1963 launched the first of a series of military satellites to detect gamma rays from illicit tests.

The Vela satellites found plenty of gamma ray bursts, but none from nuclear explosions on earth. The US had stumbled on a new class of celestial event, but kept it to themselves until 1973.

Since then, more sources have been found, but we are none the closer to understanding what they are.

One of the most difficult questions is whether the sources are local, remote, or very remote. Dr Fichtel's quasars are between seven and 25 billion light years away, but other gamma ray sources appear to be much more local.

Observations show gamma rays coming from quite small areas, distributed apparently smoothly across the sky, and in most cases not associated with any other visible objects.

The mystery has been deepened by surveys of gamma ray wavelengths conducted by the Compton Gamma Ray Observatory,

Gamma ray bursts have baffled scientists since they were first discovered in 1963

placed in earth orbit by the shuttle *Atlantis* last April. The observatory has found more than 200 gamma ray bursts, but has failed to confirm earlier theories about what they might be.

One of the Compton scientists, Gerald Fishman of NASA's Marshall Space Flight Centre, says that only once this century, when the nature of galaxies was being hotly debated in the 1920s, have astronomers been so confused.

The trouble is that the Compton studies have cast doubt on the favourite theory about gamma ray bursts, which was that they came from explosions or the impacts of comets on the surfaces of neutron stars within the Milky Way — that is, they were quite local events.

If so, the Compton instruments would show fewer of them when they looked in a direction perpendicular to the galactic disc, and more along the axis of the disc. However, the bursts were as smoothly distributed as currants in a Christmas pudding.

"The new data raise problems," says Professor Sir Martin Rees, of the Institute of Astronomy at Cambridge. The distribution of the brightness of the bursts suggests that the objects cannot be very local, or we would be seeing a larger number of weaker ones.

That this is not so, combined with the distribution, suggests that the sources may be in the form of a "halo" of neutron stars surrounding the galaxy and about 150,000 light years away, beyond the furthest visible stars in the galaxy. If they are, then the gamma ray

bursts originate from cataclysmic events such as thermonuclear explosions, collisions with comets, or huge starquakes, all of which are thought capable of generating sufficient numbers of gamma rays of the right sort of energy.

Typically, the bursts last anything from fractions of a second to a few minutes. The difficulty with the explanation is quite how the neutron stars got themselves into a halo around the galaxy, when more normal objects are contained within the galactic disc.

Furthermore, why are we not seeing similar bursts from halos around other, nearby galaxies?

This has led some astronomers to propose an even more exotic explanation — that the sources of the bursts are at really enormous distances and are driven by extraordinary sources of energy.

Professor Rees suggests that perhaps two neutron stars might coalesce to form a black hole — this could be over in a fraction of a second — consistent with the short lives of some of the bursts.

Professor Rees also thinks that such events could happen often enough to account for the number of bursts observed. Suppose that such an event took place once every 100,000 years in each galaxy, and that there are a total of 100 million to a billion galaxies — then the number of gamma ray bursts so far observed could be accounted for. The difficulty is in knowing how many gamma rays such an event would release.

If this model is correct, however, it could tie with the search for gravitational waves, predicted by relativity but yet to be discovered. The merging neutron stars would produce such waves, which might be seen by detectors being built.

If the wave seen by a detector coincided with a gamma ray burst, that would be confirmatory evidence, and provide an idea of the direction from which the gravitational wave was coming.

NIGEL HAWKES

America plays safe

THE American defence department is blocking the purchase of space technology from the former Soviet Union, including a nuclear reactor designed as a rocket propulsion unit. Critics say the Pentagon wants to snuff out what is left of the Soviet space and defence industries so that they can never again pose a threat to the United States. "There is a reluctance on the part of the administration to support in any way the remnants of the Soviet military complex," says Steve Aftergood, a nuclear expert with the Federation of American Scientists.

Out of puff

THE last part of the Netherlands to be protected from the sea by windmills is to go electric next year. This will end a tradition dating from 1350, when windmills were first used as pumps. The water board at Aarlanderveen has decided that electric pumps will be more reliable, if less elegant. The past two years have been remarkably still, with too little wind to keep the mills turning. The Netherlands once had more than 9,000 windmills but now there are fewer than 1,000, many in need of restoration. Only about 50 regularly work more than one day a week.

Nervous eaters

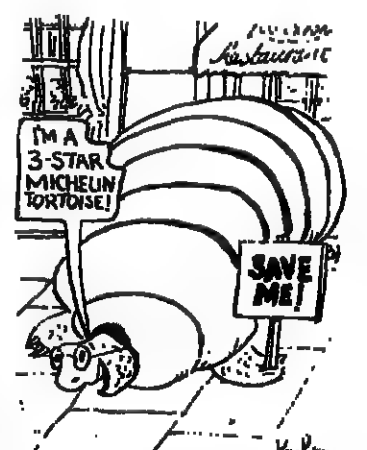
NEUROTIC men eat quiche, according to Australian research, and strong-willed women munch chocolate. The survey, of more than 1,500 men and women, showed that many eating habits are closely associated with personality types. People who feel their future is at the mercy of fate tend to ignore dietary advice, while those who feel in control of their lives eat food high in fibre and less fat, salt and sugar. Women with a tough-minded, aggressive or solitary attitude eat more refined sugar but less salt and protein than others.

Friendly bilby

AUSTRALIAN farmers want the Easter Bunny replaced by a creature called the bilby, a nocturnal marsupial about the size of a rabbit and equally cuddly but far less destructive. Rabbits are a menace, according to the South Australian United Farmers and Stockowners, who are championing the bilby's cause. Peter Day, the executive director, says: "Urban dwellers do not realise the environmental damage caused by rabbits and indeed their effect on native mammals. Where you have rabbits you virtually do not have bilbies. The problem we face is that people think rabbits are cute, cuddly things, so we thought a great way to swing the whole thing around was to use the Easter Bilby instead of the Easter Bunny."

Save the tortoise

ONE of the last refuges of the Hermann tortoise is under threat from the Michelin tyre company, say French wildlife enthusiasts. Michelin wants to build a test track at Cannet-des-Maures, north of Cannes, where more than 300 of the rare tortoises live. "This is probably the most important tortoise site in Europe and one of the most active and successful conservation projects in France."



Weighing up the pigs

ENGINEERS in Britain and Germany have come up with devices to lighten the heart of Lord Emsworth, breeder of the famous Emmentaler of Blandings, *Nigel Hawkes writes*.

The Fraunhofer Institute for Biomedical Technology, Munich, has announced production of the Porkitron, an ultrasound device that can measure the thickness of fat and meat on a pig's body to within a millimetre, while the Silsoe Research Institute, Bedford, has invented a way of weighing pigs just by looking at them.

The German invention is intended to avoid stressing the pig more than necessary. The Porkitron sends sound waves into the pig's body through heads placed at certain points on its back. The reflected sound gives an

assessment of the quality of the meat lying beneath the skin, and its precision is said to be ten times greater than conventional measuring equipment.

The device is linked to an automatic program which calculates what the carcass will be worth, taking into account current prices and the proportional distribution of meat and fat. The values appear on an illuminated display.

The Porkitron is now going into mass production for the international market. In principle, its inventors suggest, there is no reason why it should not also be used in sports centres to measure the effects of diet and exercise on the human frame — though it might need a different name.

The Silsoe invention uses a camera mounted above a pig pen

to weigh them individually without stress — an important advantage, for pigs are easily upset.

As each pig goes to drink, an electronic tag tells the camera which one it is, and a plan view of the pig taken by the camera is passed to an image analysis program which can assess its weight to within 5 per cent.

The Agriculture and Food Research Council, which is responsible for the Silsoe work, says that the system could be used to identify pigs that were going to drink more often than others, perhaps a sign of illness. Additionally, it might be able to indicate the exact moment a sow was about to farrow, alerting stockmen and even reporting if there was an abnormal delay.



In the pink pigs are easily upset so weighing demands care

Laundry dozen

A FRENCH company believes we could all halve our use of detergents by putting a dozen small balls in with our washing. The mechanical action of the Wash'balls, as they are called, stimulates old-fashioned hand scrubbing, gets washing cleaner, uses less powder and reduces wear and tear on the machine. The balls are about 1.5 in in diameter, weigh 30 grams, and are hard and resistant to detergents and high temperatures. The manufacturer, Welcom International, of Saint-Maur, says no washing machine can be considered truly green without Wash'balls.

Thinning out

THE Canadian government has launched an ozone watch, which will ultimately give a daily report on the state of the ozone layer over the country. First reports say the layer over western Canada during

says Ian Swingland, the founder of Kent University's Durrell Institute of Zoology. The defenders of the tortoise fear many will be killed by construction vehicles or by other vehicles using the track. The Michelin company has declined to comment.

The warmest

THIS has been the warmest winter in the United States since records began 97 years ago, the National Climate Data Centre has reported. Preliminary figures for the 48 contiguous states showed the average winter temperature at 36.87°F, more than 2°C, says a meteorologist at the centre. That topped the previous record, in 1953-4, when the nation averaged 36.1°F. In Britain, the Meteorological Office says the three months between December and February were 0.9°C above the average, some way behind the warmest winter, 1988-9, which was 2.9°C above average.

TUESDAY MARCH 17 1992

Frances Gibb profiles the men who could fill the Lord Chancellor's post



Lord Mackay, left: expected to step down if the Tories win. The lawyers in waiting, from left: Sir Patrick Mayhew, Lord Irvine, Peter Archer

Who will be the next Lord Chancellor? Whatever the outcome of the election, a question mark hangs over the next holder of the cabinet post that straddles the executive and the judiciary. Speculation is strong that Lord Mackay of Clashfern, who has held office for nearly five years, would step down within three months of a Conservative victory. Lord Mackay, who will be 65 in July, is believed to want time with his family, and to return to Edinburgh.

The decision would be entirely his and he has the unequivocal backing of the prime minister and ministerial colleagues. He has already put in a longer stint than almost any other government minister, and although there is still unfinished work, such as the rolling programme of reform to family law, his reforms of the legal profession are now on the statute book.

There is already vigorous debate, therefore, as to who might succeed Lord Mackay in a new Conservative administration. The obvious contenders include the Attorney-General, Sir Patrick Mayhew, QC, who might bring more political experience to the job than did Lord Mackay, but solicitors fear he would lack Lord Mackay's reforming zeal on the opening-up of the Bar's monopoly of advocacy rights in the higher courts.

Sir Patrick is the formal head of the Bar and the minister responsible for the government legal service. He found his loyalties split on the issue of advocacy rights for the government legal service. He was obliged to leave the initiative to the relevant departmental heads, the Director of Public Prosecutions and the Treasury Solicitor.

A candidate could come from the practising judiciary, like Lord Mackay, a law lord when Mrs Thatcher unexpectedly made him Lord Chancellor. Lord Donaldson, the Master of the Rolls, would have been the obvious choice but at 71 he would probably be thought too old.

Lord Justice Woolf is a

Who gets the top job if Mackay goes?

strong possibility who would be widely welcomed across the legal profession. He is one of the most progressive-minded of the senior judges, with plenty of ideas on reforming the courts system.

He has floated the idea of a director of civil proceedings to bring important civil actions in the public interest, and has proposed a tribunal to deal with environmental law decisions. On the Labour side, two clear front-runners have emerged: Lord Irvine, QC, the Labour MP who advised Neil Kinnock over his dealings in the 1980s and was given a peerage by him, and Peter Archer, QC, MP for Warley West, who was the Solicitor-General in the 1974-79 Labour administration and is retiring from the Commons.

Lord Irvine is regarded as highly intelligent, a "safe pair of hands". Mr Archer, a Methodist lay preacher who turned down the knighthood that goes with the Solicitor-General's job, is widely liked.

Labour policy is for a sentencing council, a judicial appointments commission and an investigative body to look at miscarriages of justice.

Each of the candidates, however, boasts a number of other ideas. Lord Irvine, aged 52, says the most important legal issue is "the cash crisis in the legal aid system". He promises a "radical rethink" of the way legal services are

provided, while warning that "no Government could sign a blank cheque for legal aid". Wastage in legal aid, he believes, could be tackled by dealing with the law's "twin evils" of delays and costs.

In particular, he has proposed making alternative dispute resolution — out-of-court settlement of disputes through mediators — a compulsory

any notion that he took a pro-Bar line on the government legal reforms. He says solicitors should have advocacy rights in the higher courts subject to satisfactory training and experience, and that advocacy rights for Crown Prosecution lawyers are in the longer term "almost inevitable".

Mr Archer, who is 65, also puts legal aid at the top of the agenda, and would refer the vexed issue of fixed fees in magistrates' courts to the Royal Commission on Criminal Justice. He wants an advisory services commission to look at availability of legal services, to employ salaried lawyers where there are gaps, and to ensure that solicitors

doing legal aid work are paid promptly and properly. For public or private employers to use a service and then say they cannot afford to pay for it for a year is "disgraceful", he says.

Mr Archer can lay claim to a measure that in 1979 restored the proportion of people eligible for legal aid to 80 per cent, as it had then dropped to 40 per cent. He now believes this low point has returned. He further favours extending legal aid for some tribunals and seeing how the "middle-income groups" who fail to qualify at present could be helped. This is in the government's own review.

On immediate legislation, Mr Archer wants to see a bill outlawing uncorroborated confession evidence, and a

conveyancing has almost gone and instead there is a steady growth of company law, intellectual property and insolvency work, he said.

More gloom

LLOYD's of London should prepare itself for another wave of claims from the United States. The Californian state court of appeal, in *Montrose Chemical Corporation v Admiral Insurance Company*, has ruled that insurance companies must provide policyholders with coverage for damage occurring over the entire course of environmental contamination. Insurers cannot limit their cover for continuing pollution to a single policy period. David Mulliken, of Los Angeles law firm Latham & Watkins, says: "This decision will release literally billions of dollars from insurance carriers' coffers and allow a needed response to environmental claims." Few Lloyd's names will be voting for the Green party.

Goodman link

LORD Goodman's law firm, Goodman Derick, in the news last week with reports of its refusal to act for the Duchess of York — about which it will not comment — has merged with Swingland & Co, a niche City commercial firm with expertise in company, banking and construction law. Goodman Derick is already well known for high profile work for television and publishing clients. The merger will boost its work on the corporate and property side.

SCRIVENOR

THE directory of the now 650-strong Chancery Bar, outlining in simple language what every one of its members does, was launched last week. The event would have been "inconceivable" 25 years ago. Mr Justice Hoffmann said at the launch. His chambers at the time were "furnished with deliberate squallor". He recalled: "The clerk's room looked like Scrooge's counting house and the Chancery clerks wore up hats as they walked gravely along the terrace to lunch in hall."

The work is also different. The old staple Chancery diet of trusts and wills and

first step for all involved in civil disputes. If a party rejected a solution put forward by a neutral mediator, and the outcome of the dispute in court was not dissimilar, then that party should pay the penalty in costs, he says.

Second, he wants to cut out many of the preliminary hearings, the applications for "further and better particulars", and discovery of documents, and bring in target dates for trials, making judges more active in ensuring they are met. "I am proposing fast-track litigation with a hands-on approach by the judges," he says.

On the criminal law side, he favours abolishing committal proceedings "at a stroke".

He is at pains to demolish

the post might not go to either the Conservatives or Labour. In a hung Parliament, the post could well be one traded to the Liberal Democrats

INNS AND OUTS

Labour's lawmen

LEADING lawyers are already cropping up in the party political campaigns. Anthony Scrivener, QC, last year's Bar chairman, contributed to the Labour brochure, "Your Land, My Land", and appeared recently with Labour leaders at a conference. Roger Pannone, the deputy vice-president of the Law Society, is expected to appear among the personalities speaking up for Labour, possibly in television commercials.

Set-shifting

WHILE London barristers get hot under their collars about the rents at Inns of Court, Bedford Row must be giving thanks for the recent moves there by the set of Evan Stone, QC, and the Bar Council itself. Since those moves, it has welcomed others who find it gives a better deal in space and costs than the Inns. The latest to go there is the set of Andrew Thornhill, QC, which is deserting Pump Court.

Sell-it-yourself

JOSEPH Bradshaw, the DIY conveyancing guru, has updated his guide, "House Buying, Selling and Conveyancing for All", first published nine years ago for homeowners wishing to cut out the middlemen. Since then, he says, the conveyancing monopoly has gone. Mortgages are easier and competition between agencies is rife. "Innocent homeowners are in

danger of being caught in the crossfire," he says. Above all, there is the housing slump. Lawyers are warning DIY conveyancers that they could face problems when they sell. Mr Bradshaw remains sceptical. His guide recommends the inclusion of a condition in the contract to ensure "that you as vendor are not left responsible for awful obligations attaching to the property that could crop up later". He urges readers: "Do not be afraid to have a go."

Alert for bosses

NORTON Rose's new guide, "Directors at Risk", gives the warning: "Directors should remember that, although a company's liability may be limited under UK law, a director's liability for damages will be unlimited." As the trend in law is to extend personal liability exposure of executive

and non-executive directors, from complying with regulatory requirements to potential criminal liability for breaches of the environmental legislation, the authors advise directors to adopt a sound strategy for risk management. As there is a controversy over the large salaries and golden handshakes on offer to directors, the authors also say legal challenges to service contracts are becoming more common. A contract that is excessively generous can be set aside by the courts, leaving the director to refund all the benefits, including the salary he has already been paid. If he has spent it all on gambling and drink, the directors who approve the contract in the first place may have to pay.

Who does what

THE directory of the now 650-strong Chancery Bar, outlining in simple language what every one of its members does, was launched last week. The event would have been "inconceivable" 25 years ago. Mr Justice Hoffmann said at the launch. His chambers at the time were "furnished with deliberate squallor". He recalled: "The clerk's room looked like Scrooge's counting house and the Chancery clerks wore up hats as they walked gravely along the terrace to lunch in hall."

The work is also different. The old staple Chancery diet of trusts and wills and



Deals that can beggar the aged

The stage is set for a mammoth set of High Court test cases this year. The plaintiffs will be a cross-section of 1,200 victims of home income plans, represented by Anthony Scrivener, QC. The defendants will be solicitors, insurance advisers and building societies. There may be horror stories of repossessed pensioners. There will be sideswipes at solicitors for failing to warn their clients of the risks involved. But what are the real issues? Does every mortgage scheme for the elderly involve inevitable repossession and families finding that they inherit virtually nothing?

The issues are complicated because of the different mortgage schemes for the elderly and the differing responsibilities of the various parties involved. The basic arrangement is that an elderly person raises money by mortgaging his home. Usually the scheme would be set up by an insurance salesman and a solicitor would deal with the mortgage. Unlike in a conventional mortgage, however, there is no system for repaying the mortgage without selling the house.

Typically the borrower will have a limited income anyway and will be incapable, without assistance, of paying even the interest on the mortgage.

The schemes differ in what happens from then on. Some of them involve investments that are intended to pay off the interest on the mortgage. Others simply "roll up" the interest and then rely on the house being sold to repay the loan.

The repayment arrangements come in two basic types: those linked to fixed-return investments and those where the returns are far from guaranteed. The most appropriate fixed-return investment for elderly people is the annuity that can provide a guaranteed monthly income for the life of the annuity holder. Upon death the income ceases and there is no capital repayment. The annuity is provided by an insurance company that is gambling on the life expectancy of the annuity holder. The older the person, the greater the rate of return. With very elderly people it is possible to get a greater return on the annuity than is being paid to the lender and the surplus provides additional income for the borrower.

To be totally safe, the rate of interest payable on the mortgage must be fixed at a rate less than the return on the annuity. Few would-be borrowers are old enough for the scheme to work properly.

Problems have arisen with the non-guaranteed investments, such as insurance bonds, on which the salesman gets a large commission. The returns on these have often been poor, leaving the borrower with

insufficient income to pay the interest on the loan. This interest has been added to the debt and compounded to the extent that many elderly borrowers find themselves owing much more than they borrowed.

With virtually every type of scheme it is possible to demonstrate circumstances on paper where the scheme works well. However, for every case in which it works there will be dozens where it will not work and can be a disaster.

Much of the argument in the test cases will concern the way in which unsuitable schemes were sold to elderly and often financially unsophisticated people, who were not warned about the risks involved.

The worst possible scenario works like this. Mr and Mrs Poor only have state pensions for income. They own a house, which is worth £70,000 and free from mortgage. An insurance salesman approaches them and tells them they can raise a mortgage of £60,000, which can be invested to produce an average rate of return of 15 per cent while they pay only 10 per cent interest on the mortgage. This means extra income of £3,000 a year. The capital of the investment is preserved and can be used to pay off the mortgage whenever necessary. The Poores are told that the more they borrow, the more they will make. Repayment overcomes sagacity and the investment provides a return of 3 per cent while the mortgage rate zooms up to 15 per cent and the capital value of the underlying investment declines to £45,000. The mortgage debt increases to £80,000 and the Poores' house is now worth just £60,000. The lender is now taking possession proceedings. If the house is now sold, the borrowers will be left with about £22,000 after the costs of the sale.

The Poores will blame the salesman who sold them this scheme, the solicitor who dealt with the mortgage and the lender who provided the wherewithal for the bad investment. They will be alleging misrepresentation and negligence. There will be some difficulties. The salesman will claim that he warned Mr and Mrs Poor of the risks. When he finds no such evidence he will claim that his duty was confined to dealing with the mortgage and did not extend to considering the viability of the scheme.

He may even add, somewhat piously, that he is not qualified to advise on investments. The courts will have to decide liability but the smart money will be on the salesman and the solicitor being liable if they cannot prove that they made the risks clear to the borrowers. The lenders should make a very narrow escape.

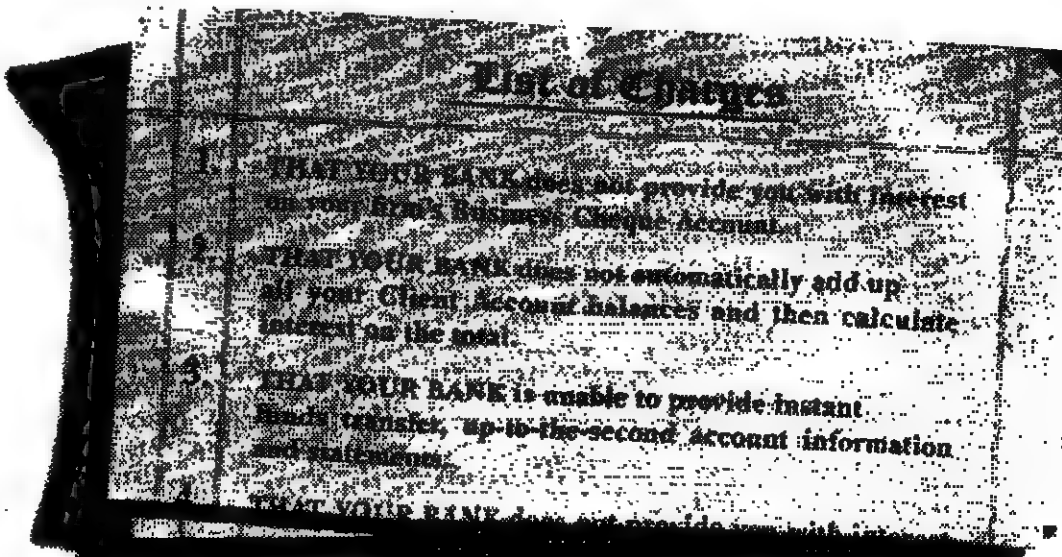
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PATRICK STEVENS

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Time for Discretion

"I can't stand the partner I work for!" This is one of the reasons frequently given by Assistant Solicitors looking for a new position. Another one is that they can't stand the work. If these are the only reasons candidates wish to move, we usually advise them not to rush into seeking another job. First they should try to improve things where they are by raising the matter with the partner concerned.

Candidates have not always taken kindly to this advice. Something seems to tell them that it is too easily given. It may sound plausible at the time, but back at the office its plausibility wanes. Instead, the risks attached become more obvious.

These risks are illustrated by the fate of a young solicitor in Yorkshire. She had been with her firm for six months and was becoming upset by her partner's unusual personality. At moments of high tension, doors would be kicked open, ashtrays thrown across the room, chairs turned upside down, and so forth. With all the tact and discretion she could muster she told him that conditions were not altogether conducive to a proper concentration on her work. The result was that she found herself out of a job.

We are no longer advising candidates always to voice their discontent. In the present job-market employers are more ready than they were to dismiss a member of staff and recruit a replacement. They are less prepared to listen to staff grievances. Before expressing any dissatisfaction, therefore, one must judge the situation carefully.

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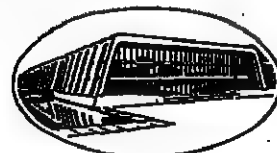
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Into the European lobby

The EC was founded on complex laws — so a lawyer could be ideal as a lobbyist, says Diana Bentley

Lawyers in Brussels are finding that lobbying over developments in new European Community laws is a growing and important part of their work. The law-making procedures both in the UK and in the EC invite informed discussion and debate and provide the opportunity to advance given interests. Currently, a range of people are involved in lobbying: industry associations, chambers of commerce, professional lobbyists, politicians and, within the EC, diplomats and national representatives.

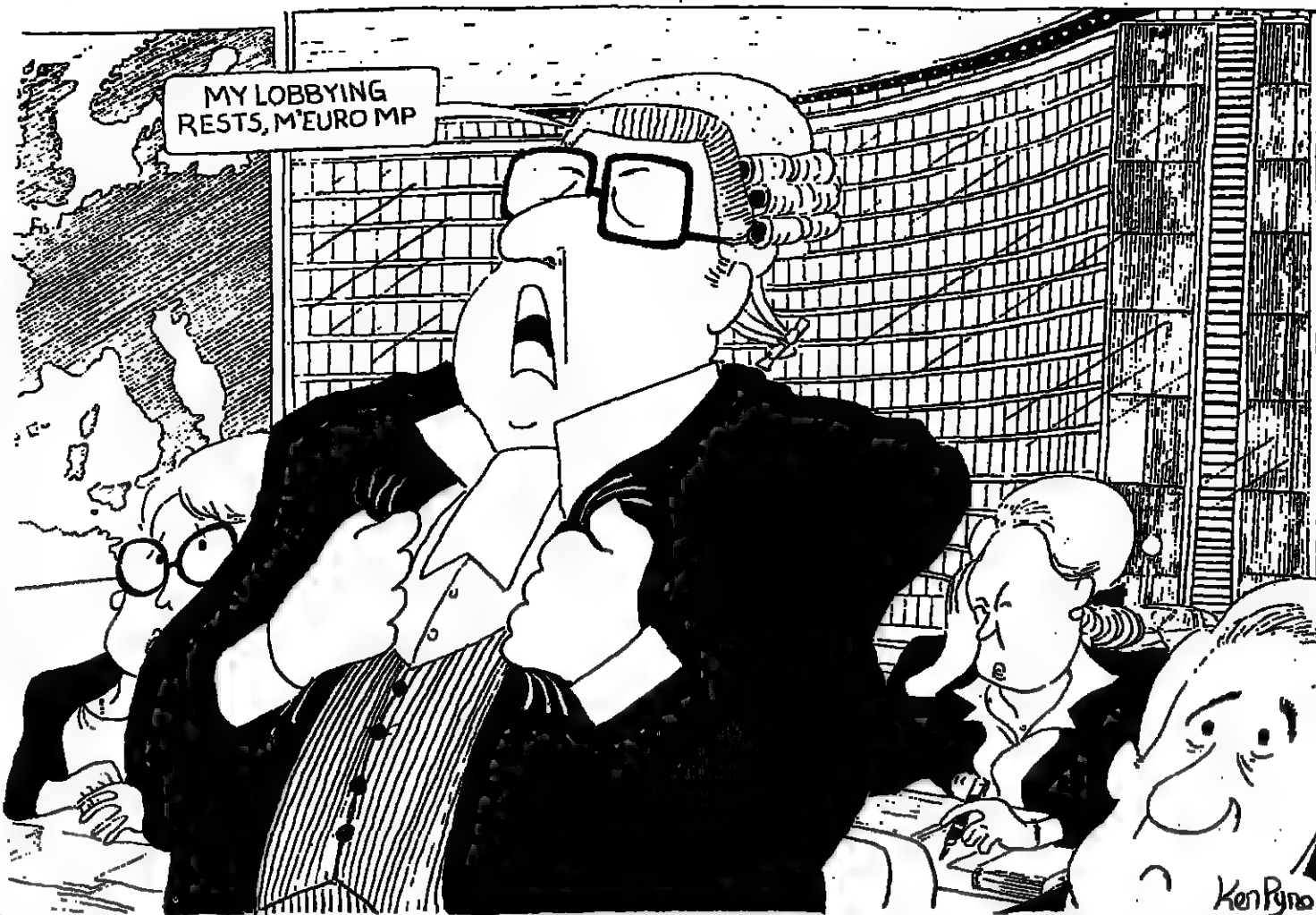
Professional lobbyists and others involved, however, say lawyers who are often best placed to make positive contributions to formulating new laws, and the skills they can apply appear to be better appreciated and used in Brussels than in Westminster.

The plethora of foreign practices in Brussels shows the attention paid to the EC's administrative centre by big international law firms. Ulick Bourke, of Clifford Chance's Brussels office, confirms that the firm is becoming increasingly involved in advising on proposed laws and on the strategies and methods of having them altered. Leonard Hawkes, of S.J. Berwin & Co's Brussels office, says: "We get involved in lobbying for legislation to be adopted, so it is not just a critical process."

The experience of the large American law firms is similar. Geoffrey Oliver, of O'Melveny and Myers in Brussels, says that although this work is not as significant as the firm's trade and competition business, it is becoming more important.

A significant part of lobbying is anticipating proposed measures. EC lawyers stress that it is best to start early, before a European Commission proposal is formally drafted. Many firms accept watching briefs for clients.

This level of involvement appears not to be matched locally. Chris Davies, the public affairs director with the Communication Group, a UK-based public relations business, believes that it is more common in Britain than elsewhere for companies to use professional lobbyists or their own employees. Some cross-referral now occurs with lawyers who are advising on new legislation, suggest-



ing to clients that a professional government relations lobbyist be retained, or a lobbyist suggesting that a lawyer is required. He believes, however, that the local culture is different, and the need to influence the drafting of new laws is not always appreciated.

Mr Bourke argues that, as the EC is based on a legal order established under the Treaty of Rome, all its activities have legal implications. The law-making process is long and complex, and those very familiar with EC procedures are well placed to advise on substantive points and the strategies for following proposed laws through the EC and even the national arenas of member states.

Mr Hawkes says lawyers can help clients to produce "the sort of short, practical persuasive document which a busy commission or European parliamentarian has time to read and which will assist him in forming a view".

With a knowledge of EC or local

laws, lawyers can help to identify key issues and ambiguities and ensure that the proposals are integrated and consistent with other legislation. There could be aspects of proposed laws, such as details of natural justice, which would not be appreciated by laymen. It is a cooperative effort: the client knows most about the industry, the lawyer about the legal setting. Lawyers' knowledge of a particular area can be an important aspect of reviewing the impact of possible legislation.

This is already appreciated by some industry groups, such as the Food and Drink Federation of the United Kingdom. John Wood, of the federation, confirms that it usually has a lawyer on its committees that examine proposed legislation.

An industry lawyer was included last year on the federation's food law panel, which made representations to the government over what is now the Food Safety Act of 1990, an important piece of legislation which set the

legal framework in which the industry would operate in the UK. Legal knowledge can be particularly relevant in areas heavily regulated, such as financial services. Lawyers' analytical and drafting skills, plus experience in advocacy, can be well employed in devising arguments and formulating written submissions.

Lawyers can also help clients to identify and mobilise allies, says Walter Oberreit, of the American firm Cleary, Gottlieb Steen and Hamilton, "especially if the client is not experienced on the European scene".

Geoffrey Oliver, of O'Melveny and Myers, stresses the constructive aspects of lobbying. In his experience, EC officials often welcome informed comment from those knowledgeable in the industry, and their advisers and lobbyists can help to clarify proposed regulation.

Nationally, in relation to private bills in particular, Chris Davies says it is vital that lawyers' technical know-

ledge and drafting skills are used. Even if a public bill is being drafted, a lawyer is a great asset. Although people believe Westminster and Whitehall are secretive, the UK law-makers, he believes, are often responsive if approached properly with constructive suggestions. "This argues for a well prepared case, soundly based legally and well presented," he says. Much money, he says, is wasted in the UK on unfocused and badly handled lobbying.

Lawyers in private practice, however, have to be briefed to contribute to the law-making process and are accordingly constrained from taking the initiative in lobbying. In-house legal counsel are in this respect well able to take an active approach, assisting their employers.

Trade associations and industry groups should consider whether a lawyer can help, both with their argument and in shaping their lobbying strategy.

• The author is a freelance writer

This way to the fiesta

As Spain integrates with the EC, more British firms head for the sun

Spain's Year of Fiesta marks another important stage in its emergence as a full member of the European Community. Even if the end of the Olympic Games and Expo is marked by an economic headache, Spain's economic integration with the rest of Western Europe will continue.

For international lawyers this has created an opportunity to set up in Madrid and Barcelona the sophisticated services the business community needs. Half a dozen English law firms are now down there.

In deference to the sensibilities of the local lawyers, however, some firms thought it prudent to keep a low profile. Stephenson Harwood, for example, has four lawyers (three English qualified, one Spanish) in Madrid but has tended to play down its London connections and adopted a certain amount of camouflage.

Not so Freshfields, which held a seminar for Spanish financial analysts in Madrid a fortnight ago to emphasise that it had arrived in town. Under the management of an English partner, John Byrne, Freshfields has recruited a mix of big-name Spanish lawyers and younger people who are keen to work for foreign firms. The aim is to provide Spain's bankers and business people with the kind of service no local Spanish firm can offer.

By combining well connected Spaniards with the international know-how in London, Freshfields hopes to become a leading (and in due course recognisably Spanish) law firm by the end of the decade. The membership of the European Community provides a setting for these developments. Because of the clash of cultures, many merchant banks have difficulty in dealing with Spanish lawyers. Although there is no question that they are good at what they know, they are sometimes valued more for their trustworthiness and confidentiality than their legal skills.

The past five years of change within Spain's financial community means, however, that this is no longer good enough. Greater sophistication is now required to cope with the greater depth of the Spanish capital market and there is a similar need for transparency in the preparation of company accounts.

For Javier Gomez-Acebo, one of the senior lawyers recruited by Freshfields, there were initial fears of a colonialist attitude from London but these were quickly allayed. Freshfields wants the Madrid practice to emerge as a force in its own right. In pursuing this strategy, Freshfields is following the footsteps of Clifford Chance, which has been in Spain for a number of years.

Peter Cornell, a partner who heads the Madrid office, now has 22 lawyers, of whom about three-quarters are Spanish.

The big firms of accountants also offer legal services and Freshfields could easily find itself up against the KPMG Peat Marwick in a beauty parade.

Whoever wins that struggle, it is unlikely that the London firms will fare badly in Spain. Because there is an enthusiasm for the single market and Spanish companies are beginning to do business in Europe, good, experienced community lawyers will be in demand.

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Tax mitigation as against avoidance

Ensign Tankers (Leasing) Ltd v Stokes (Inspector of Taxes)
Before Lord Keith of Kinkaid, Lord Brandon of Oakbrook, Lord Templeman, Lord Goff of Chieveley and Lord Jauncey of Tullichettle
[Speeches March 12]

There was a fundamental difference between tax mitigation and unacceptable tax avoidance. Where a taxpayer took advantage of the law to plan his affairs so as to minimise the incidence of tax, that amounted to tax mitigation. But where the taxpayer created complex and artificial schemes under which loss, or a gain or expenditure was shown but in fact never existed, such schemes were raids on public funds at the expense of the general body of taxpayers and were, therefore, unacceptable.

Faced with series of transactions, the court must first construe them, regarded as a whole, so as to ascertain their true effect in law and then it must apply the enactment as construed to the true effect of the transactions and to decide whether the enactment was intended to cover it.

Thus, when the facts clearly showed that the taxpayer, under a scheme, had expended capital for a trading activity, by section 41 of the Finance Act 1971 that capital expenditure generated a first-year allowance. The section was not concerned with the purpose of the transaction but with the purpose of the expenditure.

The House of Lords so stated allowing an appeal by the taxpayer, Ensign Tankers (Leasing) Ltd from an order dated January

30, 1991, of the Court of Appeal (Sir Nicolas Browne-Wilkinson, Vice-Chancellor, Lord Justice Stuart-Smith and Lord Justice Leggatt) ([1991] 1 WLR 341), allowing an appeal by the Revenue from an order of Mr Justice Millett ([1989] 1 WLR 1222) who allowed an appeal by the taxpayer from a determination of the special commissioners whereby capital expenditure was incurred by limited partnerships on acquiring master film negatives were trading transactions that entitled the taxpayer to first-year allowances under section 41 of the Finance Act 1971.

The Court of Appeal remitted the case to the commissioners for their reconsideration.

The taxpayer entered into a series of transactions under which two limited partnerships were set up to finance production of two films which were under production.

The partnerships then entered into agreements under which they paid substantial amounts towards the cost of producing the films and undertook to meet the entire costs of the production and in return proposed to acquire the ownership rights of the films.

Under certain loan agreements, the production companies lent to the partnership sufficient monies for completing the films if they ran over the budgeted costs. Those were non-recourse loans being repayable only out of the receipts of the films.

Mr John Gardner, QC and Mr Jonathan Peacock for the taxpayer; Mr Christopher McCall,

QC and Mr Laurence Henderson for the Crown.

LORD TEMPLEMAN said that in *Crown v White (Stephen)* ([1989] AC 398, 479) Lord Keith of Kinkaid stated that the principle was that the court must first construe the relevant enactment in order to ascertain its meaning. It must then analyse the series of transactions in question, regarded as a whole, so as to ascertain its true effect in law.

Finally, the court must apply the enactment as construed to the true effect of the series of transactions and so decide whether or not the enactment was intended to cover it.

Applying that test to section 41 of the 1971 Act and to the single composite transaction regarded as a whole, the true effect in law was an expenditure by the partnerships of \$3.25 million and the true fiscal effect was a first-year allowance equal to that sum.

In *Commissioners of Inland Revenue v Challenge Corporation Ltd* ([1987] AC 155, 167-168) his Lordship himself said that income tax was mitigated by a taxpayer who reduced his income or incurred expenditure in circumstances which reduced the assessable income or entitled him to reduction in his liability.

But income tax was avoided where the taxpayer reduced his liability to tax without involving him in the loss or expenditure which entitled him to that reduction.

The taxpayer here claimed that the partnerships generated a first-year allowance of \$14 million without incurring the expenditure of \$14 million. That was tax avoidance and fell within the

principle of *Ramsay (W. T.) Ltd v IRC* ([1982] AC 300).

But those principles did not compel or authorise the court to disregard all the fiscal consequences of a single composite transaction read as a whole on the ground that it appeared that the transaction was a tax avoidance scheme.

In the present case the commissioners felt bound to ignore all the fiscal consequences which were beneficial to the taxpayer because the partnerships had entered into the scheme "with fiscal motives as the paramount object".

Similarly, in the view of the Vice-Chancellor, the taxpayer was deprived of all the beneficial effects of the scheme if the scheme was entered into "essentially for the purpose of obtaining a fiscal advantage under the guise of a commercial transaction" (*supra* p357).

His Lordship did not consider that the commissioners or the courts were competent or obliged to decide whether there was a sole object or paramount intention not to weigh fiscal intentions against non-fiscal elements.

The task of the commissioners was to find the facts and to apply the law, subject to correction by the courts if they misapplied the law. The facts were undisputed and the law was clear.

The partnerships expended capital of \$3.25 million for the purpose of producing and exploiting a commercial film. The production and exploitation of a film was a trading activity. The expenditure of capital for the purpose of producing and exploiting a commercial film was a trading purpose.

By section 41 of the 1971 Act capital expenditure for a trading purpose generated a first-year allowance. The section was not concerned with the purpose of the transaction but with the purpose of the expenditure. Thus the principles of *Ramsay* and subsequent authorities did not apply to the expenditure of \$3.25 million because that was real and not magical expenditure by the partnerships.

Accordingly, the legal effect of the transaction, whatever its design, was a trading transaction whereby the partnerships expended \$3.25 million towards the production of a film in which the partnerships had a 25 per cent interest.

A trading transaction could thus be plainly identified which was not a sham and could have resulted in either a profit or a loss. The expenditure of \$3.25 million was a real expenditure.

The receipts of \$3 million were real receipts. The expenditure entitled the taxpayer to a first-year allowance and the receipts imposed a corporation tax liability.

Thus the orders of the Court of Appeal and Mr Justice Millett would be set aside the case referred back to the commissioners to determine, in default of agreement, the tax assessment of the taxpayer on the footing that \$3.25 million allowance was generated.

Lord Goff and Lord Jauncey gave concurring speeches and Lord Keith and Lord Brandon agreed.

Solicitors: Belmont & Lowe for Hugh James Jones & Jenkins, Cardiff; Solicitor of Inland Revenue.

Kleinwort Benson Ltd v Glasgow City Council
Barclays Bank plc v Same

Before Mr Justice Hirst
[Judgment February 27]

Transactions which had been declared void *ab initio* as contracts were not open to classification as "matters relating to contract" under the Convention on Jurisdiction and the Enforcement of Judgments in Civil and Commercial Matters, signed at Brussels in 1968 and scheduled to the Civil Jurisdiction and Judgments Act 1982, so as to allow jurisdiction in the courts of the country of performance of obligations arising from the transactions.

Mr Justice Hirst so held in the Queen's Bench Division in a judgment delivered in open court after a hearing in chambers when granting a declaration sought by Glasgow City Council that the jurisdiction for actions by two banks, Kleinwort Benson Ltd and Barclays Bank plc, claiming sums from Glasgow City Council was Scotland and dismissing the actions commenced in England.

Mr Thomas Beazley for the banks; Mr Jonathan Teeks for the council.

MR JUSTICE HIRST said Barclays were claiming £389,431 for sums paid under one interest rate swap agreement and Kleinwort for £807,230.31 for sums paid under seven.

"*Hazell v Hamernith and Fulham LBC* ([1991] 2 WLR 372)

Void transactions are not contracts

had established that interest rate swap transactions were *ultra vires* the local authorities making them and void *ab initio*.

The banks now claimed the return of the sums on the basis of restitution on various grounds. The council sought declarations that the court had no jurisdiction and to have the actions in England dismissed.

The parties agreed that section 16 of and Schedule 4 to the 1982 Act applied to determine the court's jurisdiction. Article 2 of the Brussels Convention provided: "... persons domiciled in a part of the United Kingdom shall ... be sued in the courts of that part." *Prima facie* the banks could only sue in England if they could bring themselves within the special jurisdiction of article 5.

Article 5 provided that a person could be sued "(1) in matters relating to a contract, in the courts for the place of performance of the obligation in question..."

"(3) in matters relating to tort, delict or quasi-delict, in the courts for the place where the harmful event occurred or ... is likely to occur..."

Section 16(3)(a) of the 1982 Act required regard to be had, in determining the effect of Schedule 4, to the decisions and principles of the European Court on the 1968 Convention.

As to article 5(1) it was agreed the place of performance was to have been England.

actions were held to have been void *ab initio* that appeared to be placing a severe strain on the language of article 5(1).

Having examined the case law, his Lordship could find nothing there to give the court jurisdiction under article 5(1).

It was legitimate to take the provisions of the Convention on the Law Applicable to Contractual Obligations 1980 (the Rome Convention) into account in construing article 5(1) of the Brussels Convention but it could not properly be treated as determinative of the article's construction.

Moreover, the court was entitled to take account of the fact that the UK had excluded article 10(1)(e) of the Rome Convention [consequences of nullity of the contract] from the law of UK.

It was no doubt proper and necessary for the Rome Convention to stipulate a proper law applicable to the consequences of nullity of the contract to embody a comprehensive conflicts of law code but it by no means followed that the consequences of nullity were matters relating to a contract, *since ex hypothesi* no contract existed.

For those and other reasons, his Lordship held that the banks had failed to bring themselves within article 5(1).

Similar reasoning led his Lordship to the conclusion that article 5(3) did not apply, therefore article 2 had to prevail.

Solicitors: Clifford Chance, William Sturges & Co, Westminster.

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BBC 1

- 6.00 Ceefax (6929) 6.30 Breakfast News (5767556)
 8.15 Election Call. During the election campaign, Jonathan Dimbleby invites voters to ring 071-799 500 to put their questions to the politicians. Today's guest is Tony Blair, the shadow employment secretary (9708123)
 10.00 News, regional news and weather (8773369) 10.05 Playdays (s) (8269494) 10.25 Puddingtime. Cartoon (s) (8776456) 10.35 Giberish. Kerry Everett hosts the celebrity improvisation quiz (9229123)
 11.00 News, regional news and weather (4001123) 11.05 Help Yourself. Pam Rhodes considers the benefits of counselling (3669494) 11.30 People Today with Mani Stoppard and Adrian Mills (3655522). Including at 12.00 News, regional news and weather 12.20 Pebble Mill. Judi Sifers talks to pop singer Des'ree (s) (2355291) 12.55 Regional news and weather (60987475)
 1.00 One O'Clock News and weather (19359)
 1.30 Neighbours. (Ceefax) (s) (2572523)
 1.50 Going for Gold. The European quiz (2115271)
 2.15 Films. The Private Navy of Sergeant O'Farrell (1988). Jaded comedy about an assorted band of military personnel who congregate on an island in the aftermath of the second world war. Starring Bob Hope and Gina Lollobrigida. Directed by Frank Tashlin (400456)
 3.50 Children's BBC: Joshua Jones. Cartoon (4371543) 4.00 New York Bear Show (s) (4635017) 4.10 The Story of Doctor Doolittle. Bernard Cribbins reads the second of a five-part story for Jackson (s) (594414) 4.25 Fantastic Planet. Cartoon (s) (4614524) 4.35 The Really Wild Roadshow from the Wildlife and Wetlands Trust in Simbion (5232730) 5.00 Newsround (3562098) 5.10 Maid Marian and Her Merry Men. First of a six-part comedy by Tony Robinson (s) (Ceefax) (2583639)
 5.35 Neighbours. (Ceefax) (s) (701098) Northern Ireland: Inside Lister 6.00 Six O'Clock News with Peter Sissons and Anne Ford. (Ceefax) (Ceefax) (655)
 6.30 Regional News Magazines (611). Northern Ireland: Neighbours (s) (Ceefax)
 7.00 Holiday. Today's programme suggests Finnish Lapland, the Bahamas and Brittany for winter breaks and announces the winners of the holiday competition (4497)



Playing mum: Pam St Clement, Nicola Stapleton (7.30pm)

- 7.30 EastEnders. Pat acts as a temporary mother to Mandy, a 15-year-old tearaway. Starring Pam St Clement and Nicola Stapleton. (Ceefax) (s) (123)
 8.00 Just Good Friends. Bitter-sweet comedy from John Sullivan. Vince asks his father for advice, and Penny learns a few home truths. Starring Paul Nicholas and Jan Francis (s) (Ceefax) (6727)
 8.30 A Question of Sport. David Coleman quizzes team captain Roger Black and Bill Beaumont and guests footballer John Aldridge, rugby league player Alan Tait, athlete Eamonn Martin and jockey Richard Dunwoody. (Ceefax) (s) (6562)
 9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Maryn Lewis. (Ceefax). Regional news and weather (4475)
 10.00 Rides: For Richer for Poorer. Money worries plague the women cabbies. Starring Jill Baker. (Ceefax) (s) (478807)
 10.50 Film '92 with Barry Norman. This week's reviews include Barry Levinson's gangster film, Bugsy, starring newly-weds Warren Beatty and Annette Bening, and the wartime thriller, Shining Through, with Michael Douglas and Melanie Lynskey (s) (123125). Northern Ireland: Open House
 11.20 Black in Blue. Three years ago, Desmond Wilcox filmed the progress of seven black and Asian recruits to the Metropolitan Police. As a follow-up to that series, he chairs a discussion between Sir Peter Inbert, the Metropolitan Police commissioner, and the recruits who played the course and those who quit, on the force's future as a multi-racial organisation. (Ceefax) (367123). Northern Ireland: 11.35 St Patrick's Day Schools Special
 12.10am On the Muzzings (791937) 12.40 Weather 12.45 Close. Northern Ireland: 12.50 Film '92 with Barry Norman; 12.50 On the Muzzings 2.00 The Way Ahead (s) (567185). Ends at 2.15

BBC 2

- 5.00 Breakfast News (943746)
 5.15 Westminster (943269)
 6.30 The Farmer Wants a Wife. Documentary about the search by three rural bachelors for Mrs Right (38272)
 9.00 Daytime on Two: Educational programmes
 2.15 Science and Society: Biogen. How the Dutch generate energy using human and animal waste products (5544859)
 2.30 See Heart With singing and subtitles (s) (272)
 3.00 News and weather (5513459) followed by The High Chaparral. Western adventure series (8125234) (s) 3.30 News and weather, regional news and weather (4379185)
 4.00 Catchword. Paul Cole hosts the word game (s) (524)
 4.30 Slow Boat from Surabaya (s). (Ceefax) (4165307)
 5.25 The History Man. The Byzantine secrets of a Norman church in Braxted, Essex (s) (621982)
 5.30 Gardeners' World (s) (398)
 6.00 Matt Houston (1982). So-so pilot for the television series about a wealthy Texas and part-time private detective. Starring Lee Horsley. Directed by Richard Lang (8662)
 7.30 Animation Now: His Wife the Hen. A surreal cartoon from Russia (s) (373185)
 7.45 Assignment: Marx, Mohammed and the Mafia. Hugh Pryor reports on the ecological and economic troubles facing the newly independent Central Asian states of Uzbekistan and Tajikistan (251522)
 8.30 KYTV: KY Television
 ● CHOICE: The marathon fund-raising spectacular is the first television event to be produced in the new series from the KYTV team. Ostensibly a spoof satellite channel, KYTV has become the vehicle for gaudy television in general and tonight's show has echoes of the BBC's Comic Relief and Children in Need as well as the Telethon staged by ITV. The main comic thrusts are often sharp and funny: the technical breakdowns, the exploitation of the event for free advertising and the general air of no one quite knowing what they are doing. But like the real thing, the KYTV version tends to go on a bit. It is also mildly rude, although greater offence is likely to be given in next week's show which sends up the God slot. The lively cast is Helen Atkinson Wood, Angus Deayton, Geoffrey Perkins, Philip Pope and Michael Pennington (s) (6104)
 9.00 Quantum Leap: Maybe Baby. Time-traveller Sam Beckett becomes a nightclub bouncer in 1963, and helps a stripper to kidnap a baby girl. Starring Scott Bakula and Julie Brown. (Ceefax) (s) (203494)



Stomach stapling: Annette (right) with fellow inmate (9.50pm)

- 9.50 40 Minutes: So Much to Lose.
 ● CHOICE: Annette Connolly is not just on the pump alone but, according to her surgeon, "morbidly obese". Starring a modest 5 foot 5 inches she weighs in at 18 stone and the time has come to try a desperate remedy. This involves, to put it bluntly, reducing the size of her stomach with a staple gun. Viewers unsettled by the graphic details of operations are hereby warned. The stapling has an immediate effect but Annette will have to settle for tiny meals or she might blow the staples apart. Having gained a new confidence and self-respect, Annette proceeds to swap her specs for contact lenses, have a frizzy hair-cut and generally to blossom. Not least, the fascination of Joanna Clinton David's film is charming the effect of Annette's regeneration on her husband, who feels distinctly disconcerted by it. (Ceefax) (204575)
 10.30 Newsnight with Jeremy Paxman (248569)
 11.25 The Late Show. The arts and media magazine (s) (934104)
 12.05am Weather (277730)
 12.10 Open University. Open Forum (83234). Ends at 12.40

ITV

- 8.00 TV-am (3321123)
 8.25 Lundy Lads (866669) 8.55 Thames News (821746)
 10.00 The Time... The Place... Topical debate (8370123)
 10.40 This Morning (4132340). Richard Madeley and Judy Finnigan present the daily magazine programme. Including at 10.55 ITN News headlines, and at 11.55 Thames News
 12.10 Treasure Box. Children's education programme (9042098)
 12.30 ITN Lunchtime News. (Ceefax) (Weather) (7414340) 1.10 Thames News (7784545)
 1.20 Home and Away. Medical drama (s) (9687659)
 1.50 A Country Practice. Medical drama (s) (9687659)
 2.20 Hairstorm. Simon Bullock values clocks and watches (4679475)
 2.50 Families. Anglo-Australian drama series (s) (8622659) 3.15 ITN News headlines (3320746) 3.55 The Young Doctors (8701098)
 3.55 Children's ITV: Thomas the Tank Engine and Friends. Cartoon (4365982) 4.05 Disney's Duck Tales (5311814) 4.30 Twenty Five. Cartoon (5991456) 4.40 Just Us. Drama series (s) (4203948)
 5.10 Blackadder. Teenage quiz, hosted by Bob Hobsley (8468888)
 5.40 ITN Early Evening News. (Ceefax) (Weather) (981307)
 5.55 Thames Help (s) (277746) 6.00 Home and Away (s) (9687659)
 6.30 Thames News. (Ceefax) (307) 7.00 Emmerdale. (Ceefax) (727)
 7.30 Survival: Life in the Flight Path. Starstruck, London's third airport, opened in March 1991. Although there was much debate about its threat to the environment, the airport is still in full use and has its own conservation area. Narrated by Rula Lencz. (Ceefax) (291)
 8.00 The Bill. Crime drama. A small boy alleges that he was attacked in an adventure playground. (Ceefax) (4123)
 8.30 Men Behaving Badly: Sex and Violence. The naughty flatmates continue to covet their neighbour, Deborah. (Ceefax) (s) (3630)
 9.00 Murder Squad: Life Sentence.
 ● CHOICE: Instead of treating us to a new murder hunt, the real-time series signs off by returning to two of its previous cases and asks what made the killers do it. Answers are provided by the men themselves, both serving life in Wormwood Scrubs, the cops that put them there, a psychiatrist and a criminologist. There is nothing much wrong with the exercise except the lack of time to do it justice. The motivations of Brett White, who stabbed a man in a disco, and Stephen Chandler, who battered an old man to death in a council flat, are too complex to be handled in a montage of sound bites. The film does its best to make their crimes credible, although in no way excusable, but has ultimately to settle for what it can cram into less than half an hour. All the same it has been an eye-opening series (5643)
 9.30 There's Love. Romantic comedy about a woman torn between her husband and their marriage counsellor. (Ceefax) (4123)
 10.00 News at Ten. (Ceefax) (Weather) (37543) 10.30 Thames News (818017)
 10.40 Extraordinary People: Return to the Camps
 ● CHOICE: Film cameras accompany the surgeon Dr Pauline Cutting back to Lebanon where she worked heroically in a Palestinian refugee camp during the war between Israel and the political background, but steering clear of political judgements, the film follows Cutting through the smashed buildings of Beirut and joyous reunions with old colleagues and patients. Although the war is over, newsworthy footage from 1987 reminds us of the conditions under which Cutting worked. She shows how she positioned her wardrobe so that it, and not her, would soak up any shrapnel. Cutting's credentials as an extraordinary person are self-evident. She is also a very good television performer, confident, articulate and genuine. The Palestinian medical charity was lucky to have her. (Ceefax) (279555)
 11.40 Prisoner: Coll Block M (290307)
 12.00am Video View presented by Mariella Frostrup (32234)
 1.30 Shady Tapes. Shady (Adam Faith) is trailed by the FBI (4510955)
 1.40 The Equalizer. Judge. A small boy alleges that he was attacked in an adventure playground. (Ceefax) (4123)
 2.30 Donaluxe. Phil Donaluxe tours transsexual shops in New York (13514) 3.30 Donaluxe. American news magazine (s) (934104)
 4.30 Entertainment UK. A guide to what's on in Britain (26470)
 5.30 ITN Morning News (85769). Ends at 6.00

CHANNEL 4

- 8.00 Channel 4 Daily (3329765)
 9.25 Schools (5471675)
 12.00 Health's Ark. A Spanish documentary series about the natural environment of Venezuela (44456)
 12.30 Business Daily. News from the City (74562)
 1.00 Sesame Street. Children's early learning series (79017)
 2.00 Film: Laughter in Paradise (1951, b/w). Fritzy inspired comedy about a practical joker who leaves a fortune to four of his relatives, with the provision that they perform acts which are out-of-character. Starring Alastair Sim, George Cole and Joyce Grenfell. Directed by Mark Zamp. (Teletext) (242369)
 3.45 Third Wave with Mavis Nicholson: Home from Home. The programme for the over-55s examines how people reconcile their wanderlust with the need to belong (2516814)
 4.30 Countdown. Richard Whitley hosts the words and numbers game (s) (104)
 5.00 It's a Dog's Life. John Fisher, a pet behaviour consultant, demonstrates how to keep unruly dogs under control (3253)
 5.30 D'Art. Deaf and hearing-impaired children explore the performing arts, with a demonstration from sign poet Dot Miles, and a signed rap from Ray Harrison. Presented by Sarah Scott and Ray Harrison Graham (455)
 6.00 Treasure Hunt. Annabel Croft takes flight against the clock in a special edition from New Zealand (s) (Teletext) (59253)
 7.00 Channel 4 News with Jon Snow and Zeeba Badawi. (Teletext) (Weather) (349659)
 7.50 Voters. In a laundrette in Liverpool, three voters discuss key election issues (535901)



Looking for a still life: photographer Don McCullin (8.00pm)

- 8.00 Don McCullin: Redundant Warrior. The veteran war photographer reflects on his 30-year career, and the importance of the still life and landscape photography on which he now concentrates. (Teletext) (2765)
 8.30 Nature Watch: Little Lions of the Rainforest. Julian Pettit reports on attempts to breed the endangered golden lion tamarin monkey and to re-introduce it to the wilds of Brazil (s). (Teletext) (1272)
 9.00 Without Walls: For Love or Money. The arts series looks at the market for political memorabilia and the sale of Hans Holbein's painting, Lady with a Squirrel and a Starling, which is expected to raise £250 million at auction next month. Tony Blackburn presents a guide to record collecting (3036)
 10.00 Film: Evil in Clear River (1988). Well-meaning but tepid drama, based on fact, about a Canadian housewife's crusade against a racially prejudiced schoolteacher. Starring Bionic Woman Lindsay Wagner and Randy Quaid. Directed by Karen Arthur (847358)
 11.50 Midnight Special. Vincent Hanna reviews today's news, reports on the latest stories, and debates the key election issues (58533). Ends at 1.30

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